

THE UK'S **ONLY** NEWSPAPER **FOR CHILDREN**

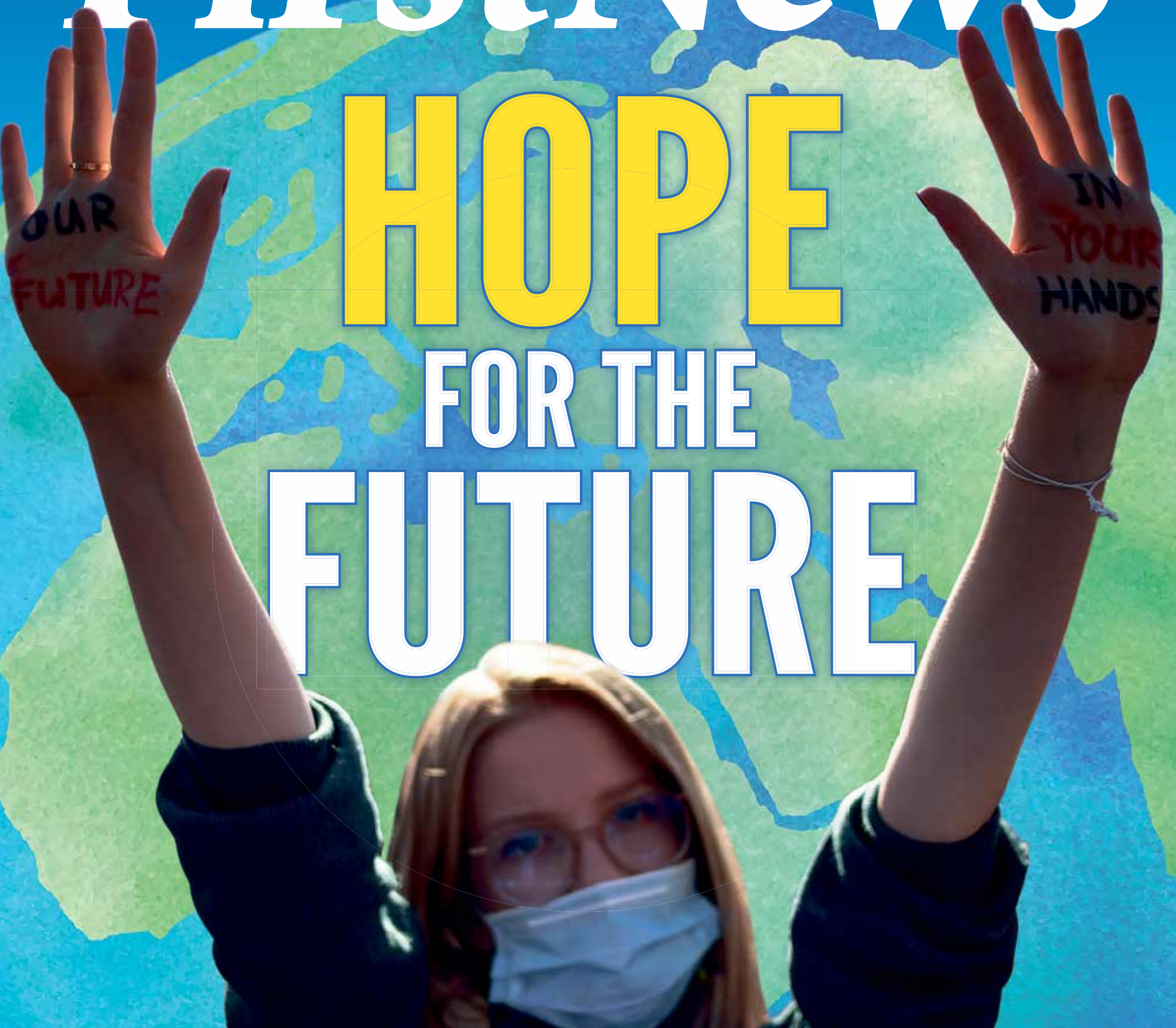
# FirstNews

Issue 747 £2.25 9 – 15 October 2020

# HOPE

## FOR THE

# FUTURE



# HOW THE WORLD IS CHANGING TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Your normal issue of **First News** is inside this four-page climate special!



# A CHANGING WORLD

FIGHTING for global action to stop the climate crisis is exhausting work. In the last few years, thousands of young people have taken to the streets to demand real action to stop global warming – and it can still feel like nothing is being done by those in charge.

However, just because it doesn't feel like anything is changing, it doesn't mean that's the case. That's why, in this week's special edition of *First News*, we thought we'd remind you that the fight for a better future is happening, and progress is being made.



## RENEWABLES ON THE RISE



Every year the amount of renewable energy produced globally is increasing, while the amount it costs to produce renewable energy is going down. While there's still a lot of work to be done, there's a lot to be hopeful about.

Energy research company BloombergNEF reported last month that 67% of the power-generating technologies built in 2019 were renewable, while only 25% were fossil-fuel-based. One of the largest investment companies in the world, Goldman Sachs, predicts that more money will be spent on renewable energy than oil and gas for the first time ever in 2021.

The number of jobs in renewable energy production is rising every year too – a recent report from the International Renewable Energy Agency says that 11.5 million people were working in the industry in 2019.

At the 75th UN General Assembly, held virtually last month, several countries re-committed to fighting

climate change, and set themselves higher targets.

China announced that it is aiming to be carbon neutral (balancing carbon dioxide emissions with carbon removal) by 2060 – a plan that could reduce the global temperature rise by up to 0.3°C. It's unclear how China will achieve this target, but going green could be worth a lot of money to the country.

The European Commission also announced a new climate plan, which would aim for the EU's emissions to be 55% lower than they were in the 1990s.

This week, PM Boris Johnson pledged that offshore wind farms will produce enough electricity to power all UK homes by 2030. The UK produces 10 gigawatts (GW) from offshore wind now – the target is 40GW.

Big businesses also announced plans to go carbon neutral. Walmart, which used to own ASDA in the UK, set a target of going 100% carbon neutral by 2040. Meanwhile, PepsiCo said the company will run on 100% renewable electricity globally by 2030.

## HYDROGEN HOPES



Vehicles powered by hydrogen (the 'H' part of H<sub>2</sub>O) do not emit harmful gases. They use hydrogen and oxygen to produce electricity, water and heat.

In the UK, the Government is hoping to make the country's rail network entirely hydrogen-powered. Just last week, the first-ever HydroFLEX train, powered by hydrogen, made its maiden journey.

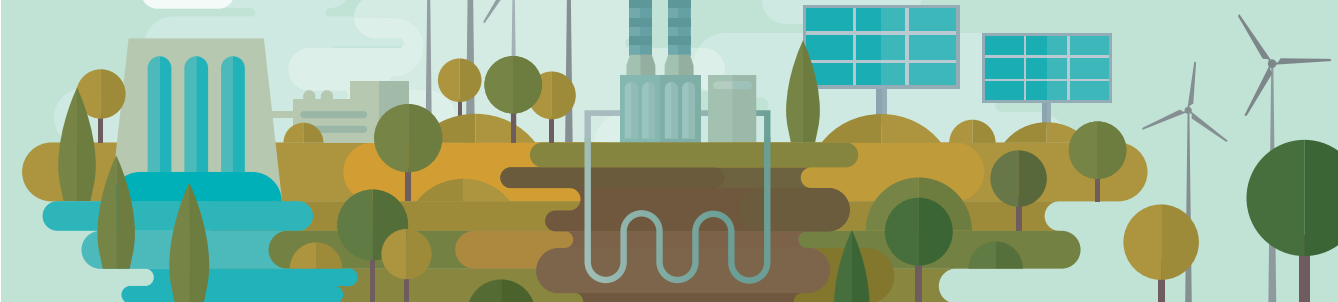
The team behind the HydroFLEX train are now working on developing a hydrogen and battery-powered module that can be used on existing trains, replacing the diesel engines they currently use and making more space for passengers.

Hydrogen is also being considered as an alternative fuel for planes. The world's first ever hydrogen-powered



passenger plane flew for the first time last week from Cranfield Airport in the UK.

Meanwhile, aerospace giant Airbus has released details of three hydrogen-fuelled concept planes (below), which it says could be in use by 2035.





# INSPIRING INNOVATIONS

ALL over the world, people are working on developing and promoting eco-friendly technologies, businesses and ideas that can help fight climate change. Here are a few of our favourites.



## PLASTIC-EATING ENZYMES

Back in 2016, a type of bacteria that could eat plastic was discovered by Japanese scientists. Now, researchers at the University of Portsmouth have used that discovery to develop what they're calling a super-enzyme, which can break down plastic into pieces that can be fully recycled.

An enzyme is something that speeds up a chemical reaction. Scientists believe that if they combine their plastic-eating super-enzyme with enzymes that can break down cotton, they could find a way to break down mixed-fabric clothing for recycling.

If everything goes to plan, the plastic-eating super-enzymes could be in use within a couple of years.

## SUPER SPONGES



Northwestern University

Oil spills are devastating for the environment, and are likely to happen for as long as fossil fuels are used. That's why researchers at the University of Illinois are working on creating a super-powered sponge that soaks up only oil in ocean water, and can absorb more than 30 times its weight.

Coated with high-tech magnetic nanostructures, and with a clever, carbon-based surface that attracts oil and resists water, the sponge stores the oil until it is squeezed out – it doesn't even leak in rough waves!

Once the oil has been squeezed out, it can then be sold back to the oil company who caused the spill. The smart sponges can be reused dozens of times without losing their effectiveness.

## CARBON CAPTURE

A major new report from the International Energy Agency has found that capturing carbon emissions from the atmosphere could end up being a key way that we reduce emissions.

Some businesses have been using carbon capture to take carbon emissions from the atmosphere for a long time, but only recently has the technology begun to be more commonly used. In the last three years, 30 new carbon capture facilities have been announced.

Using carbon capture technology is also one of the main ways we can make hydrogen without releasing harmful emissions.



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# THE POWER OF IMAGINATION



WE'RE all equipped with a surprisingly powerful weapon against climate change – the power to imagine a better world. Author and environmentalist Rob Hopkins knows a lot about this power. In 2005, Rob had the idea of working to help his home town of Totnes in Devon become more sustainable and less reliant on oil – just by using his imagination to solve some of the town's problems. It was hugely successful, and grew to become the Transition Network. Today, 50 cities around the world have joined the Transition Network, and are finding their own ways to be more eco-friendly. We spoke to Rob about how to use your imagination to fight for a better future.

## ■ Fighting climate change can be tough...

Yes! I have to say that if you're feeling like you're stressed, or even if you can't sleep because you're feeling worried about the world – congratulations! You're alive, you're awake, you're paying attention to what's going on. It's so important that we do that, even though it's really difficult, because there's so much happening.

## ■ How do you feel about our fight against climate change?

There's an analogy I've been using a lot lately – and that's if this was a football match, it's half-time and we're three-nil down. But then, back in 2001, I saw Manchester United come back from being 3-0 down against Tottenham, and they won 5-3 in the end. I really don't think they were in that changing room at half-time and the manager said: "Well, it's probably too late, and it's out of our hands." The thing that fuels me is that I get to visit places where the new world that comes after this one is being built.

## ■ How can imagination be used in the fight against climate change?

At this point in time, your imagination needs to be like a superpower! You need to be the person who, with the people around you, can use that imagination to create the world that comes after this one. What it looks like, what it feels like, what it tastes like!

## ■ Do you have any advice about how we can best use our imagination to do that?

Our ability to imagine is affected by the diversity of what we have in our memory. Sort of how a painter can paint more glorious pictures if they have a wide range of colour on their palette. When we're trying to imagine a better future, the more things you know are possible and the things that you've seen and experienced all really matter. So, I would say that you need to fill your memory

with possibilities. Seek out stories of communities who are doing amazing things, the people who are planting millions and millions of trees, those who are re-imagining agriculture, the nations who are committing to renewable energy with passion. These are things that are happening. And you can learn about them, you can even go and visit them or volunteer with them. Immerse yourself in what comes next, rather than focusing on the really rubbish things that are happening now.



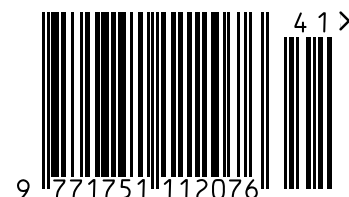
## ■ Can you tell us about some of the best things that you've seen, that give you hope for the future?

My mind is blown on a daily basis by the way people are working towards a better future. There are endless stories, but one I really love at the moment is how Liverpool is taking the idea of 'parking days' from San Francisco. It started 15 years ago in the US when a group of artists thought that, just because you buy a parking

ticket, doesn't mean you actually have to park a car there. So, they started these parking days, where they buy parking tickets, then use the parking space to show art or turn it into a little garden or play board games in it. Now a team called sPark It in Liverpool are aiming to do the same thing, and raising money to turn the streets into something more than just a place for cars.

## ■ Do you think things will turn around?

What we know for sure is that if we don't do anything, then we're really in trouble. But I do feel hopeful. There are enough examples in history of rapid transitions and people rising up and saying that this isn't acceptable any more. I really don't like it when people say that the young people on school strikes will sort it out – they do give me hope, but we can't assume they'll do everything! What I do think is that we're at a point where big ideas are needed, such as how a city can work with no cars, and how we could get rid of pesticides in two years. It's all possible, and it's a really exciting time to be young. It could be like living through the Industrial Revolution – but a good industrial revolution, one that doesn't take 100 years, one that takes ten. When we start out with it, it all feels completely impossible, but actually it's more like all the best stories. Like Harry Potter in the cupboard under the stairs, he never thought he would go on to challenge Voldemort! We've all got to pull together, and it's going to be really hard, but we can do it, and if we do, it'll be phenomenally awesome.





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# FirstNews

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THE UK'S ONLY  
NEWSPAPER  
FOR CHILDREN

## TAKE ABOW!

Schoolboy becomes **youngest person**  
to sail on his own around Britain

Timothy's advice to  
**FirstNews** readers:

*"If we are not daring  
enough to follow  
our dreams, we will  
never see if they can  
come true."*

**A TEENAGER** has just become the youngest person to sail solo around Britain.

by editor in chief Nicky Cox MBE

Timothy Long, 15, from Aylesbury, had to battle force 7 winds and thick fog, where he could barely see a boat's length ahead, during the 11-week journey. Adding to the epic achievement, Timothy also raised more than £10,000 for charity.

He was due back at school on Monday, which he said would be "a bit of a shock!" Despite Timothy missing the start of the new term, his mum Sue Elder said his school had been very supportive.

His passion for sailing began when he first went dinghy sailing on a cold reservoir near Swindon when he was nine years old.

The teenage sailor decided to make the trip around Britain after being inspired by record-breaking sailor Dame Ellen MacArthur. He mainly

followed a route she completed 25 years ago. It was for her Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust that Timothy raised the money – a national charity that supports young people to rebuild their confidence after cancer, by introducing them to sailing.

After plucking up the courage to email Ellen (having told his mum: "I can't write to her, she's a Dame"), Timothy was sent a copy of her book, *Full Circle*, and an Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust baseball cap, both signed by Ellen with the words "Go for it!"

That was all the encouragement he needed, so he put on his cap to follow her lead on 'Alchemy', his 28ft (8.5m) Hunter Impala.

He spent the summer on the 1,600 nautical mile anti-clockwise voyage around the British coast, having set out from Hamble Marina, Southampton, on 16 July. He arrived back to a hero's welcome on

1 October, breaking the record of Tom Webb, who sailed around Britain aged 17 in 2011.

Timothy said: "I can't believe I've actually done it. Ellen MacArthur has been an absolute inspiration to me. What I have always loved about sailing is the freedom it brings, and the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust enables young people who are a similar age to me and have been through the worst of times to experience that feeling and boost their confidence. It's a cause that is close to my heart, so please do support them."

Thanking him for supporting the charity, Dame Ellen said: "I was only a few years older than Tim when I did the same and I was awestruck by the incredible beauty of the British Isles. The money Tim raises will make a huge difference in young people being able to rebuild their lives after cancer."

To find out more about Timothy's trip, go to [timothylongsailing.co.uk](http://timothylongsailing.co.uk) and, for more information about the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, please visit [ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org](http://ellenmacarthurcancertrust.org)



## SHARK VACCINE RISK

Wildlife experts warn that up to half a million sharks may be killed in the quest to find a vaccine for COVID-19. The liver of sharks contains squalene, a natural oil that is used in medicine and to increase the effectiveness of vaccines. Stefanie Brendl, from conservation group Shark Allies, said: "Harvesting something from a wild animal is never going to be sustainable. We are not trying to slow down the production of a vaccine. We simply ask that testing of non-animal-derived squalene is conducted alongside shark squalene so it can be replaced as soon as possible."



## LONG OVERDUE

A library in Hampshire was shocked when two books were returned... 48 years late! Staff at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre said the books came with a note saying: "We inadvertently [accidentally] took these with us when we moved from Basingstoke in 1972. Please accept my apologies for the late return of these items."

## RARE FISH BORN

An endangered flapper skate has hatched from an egg in a Scottish aquarium. It took 18 months of care



to make sure the egg hatched successfully. The baby fish has now been released into the sea, in a protected area in Loch Sunart.

## MARY ROSE BOOST

The Mary Rose, a 500-year-old ship used by Henry VIII, has received £250,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth lost 84% of its annual income this year due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The ancient ship must be preserved in just the right conditions, which is very expensive. The Mary Rose Trust praised the National Lottery for being "a beacon of hope during this challenging period".

# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

## MELTING MESSAGE



A wax sculpture has been left to melt outside Orlando City Hall in America, to highlight climate change. The artwork, showing a man and his granddaughter enjoying an ice cream, is designed to melt in a few days, revealing the words: "More heat, less health." The sculpture is by the CLEO Institute and is part of its Florida Climate Crisis campaign.

## PADDLING PUSSYCATS



Land of the Tigers has opened at Paradise Wildlife Park in Hertfordshire. It has a pool deep enough for two tigers to swim together, and windows so visitors can get close to the underwater action. The enclosure houses two Amur tigers, the largest cat species in the world, as well as more than 40 fish in the pool.

## RHINO MATCHMAKING

A critically endangered eastern black rhino has moved into Twycross Zoo. Sudan belongs to a species that almost became extinct in 2011. It is hoped that he will mate with Nandi, the zoo's female rhino. There are only 5,000 eastern black rhinos left in the wild.

## ROYAL READING

Thursday 1 October was National Poetry Day, and the Duchess of Cornwall added her support to the Poetry Together campaign by recording herself reading WH Auden's *Night Mail*. #PoetryTogether2020 aims to bring young and old together to share the joy of poems. Find out more and get your free digital pack by going to [www.poetrytogether.com](http://www.poetrytogether.com).

## ASPIRATIONS LOWER

New research reveals that 44% of 16 to 25-year-olds say their aspirations for the future are now lower as a result of the pandemic. The Prince's Trust, which helps young people get jobs, education and training, released the findings, with UK chief executive Jonathan Townsend saying the pandemic had worn away young people's "confidence in their future". He continued: "We must support them to access job opportunities, or else risk losing their ambition and potential to long-term unemployment," which could have an impact on the recovery of our economy.



## LONG-LOST BROTHERS

Two brothers were reunited in New York after being separated 60 years ago. Don Crawford, 67, and Bruce DeLude, 69, lived in foster care together but were put up for adoption separately. "They put me in one car, and him in another car, and that was the last I saw of him," said Don. But, thanks to Bruce's daughter Heather, Don was tracked down and the brothers were reunited at long last.

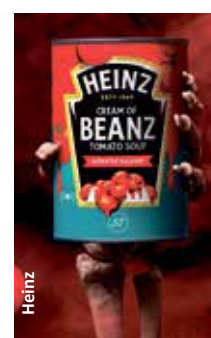
## LIVE MUSIC AT RISK

The UK live music scene is on "red alert" as coronavirus restrictions are putting hundreds of music venues at risk of closure. The Music Venue Trust launched the Save Our Venues campaign after it found 554 out of 670 of its member venues were at risk. Chief executive Mark Davyd said that Government restrictions mean that venues are only allowed a quarter of the audience and the 10pm curfew has halved their opening hours. "By that marker, they are getting 12.5% of their income," he said.



Artists like Ed Sheeran began by playing in small UK music venues

## SPOOKY SOUP



For this Halloween, Heinz is releasing a monster mash-up of baked beans and cream of tomato soup in a glow-in-the-dark can. The spooky soup is limited to

110 cans because it's the company's 110th birthday, and the only way to get one is to win one. To be in with a chance of nabbing an ultra-rare can, people are being asked to let Heinz know if they think cream of beanz tomato soup is their idea of a trick or a treat. What do you think?

## KNITTING FOR THE NHS

Knitting master Margaret Seaman, 91, has spent the last three months creating a tribute to the Nightingale Hospitals built at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Named Knittingale Hospital, the Norfolk nana's creation is the size of a big bed and includes an A&E department, a café and a helipad! It's all been done to help raise money for the NHS, with nearly £5,000 raised for hospitals in the Norfolk area.







**AS the ban on supplying plastic straws, stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds finally comes into force in England, Comic Relief has also done its bit for the environment by making the first ever 100% plastic-free, plant-based red nose.**

It's estimated that England uses 4.7 billion plastic straws, 316 million plastic stirrers and 1.8 billion plastic-stemmed cotton buds every year. Many of these find their way into the ocean, so banning them is part of the Government's plan to help protect marine life.

Comic Relief has also gone plastic-free for next year's Red Nose Day. The new nose took more than 18 months to develop and is made of bagasse, the leftover stalks of sugar cane.

The red noses will come in ten different characters representing the great outdoors, including a squirrel and a fox. The move was prompted by letters from schoolchildren across the country asking for a plastic-free red nose.

In fact, one school, Fourlanesend Community Primary School in Cornwall, got the backing of Sir David Attenborough when they wrote to him and shared their alternative red nose suggestions. He said the pupils were "perfectly correct" to talk about "replacing plastic products wherever we can, and I hope you get an adequate answer from Comic Relief."



# TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!



**PARAMEDICS in the Lake District have been testing out jetpacks that can help them get to patients faster.**

A successful test flight of the Gravity Industries jetpack suit, which can travel at speeds of up to 85mph, has taken place in Cumbria. During the test flight, the pilot flew over the Lake District and rescued a 'patient' in 90 seconds.

Although the test seemed to go well, Great North Air Ambulance Service isn't ready to roll out the jetpack suits just yet, as more tests need to be done.

## NAUGHTY PARROTS

FIVE African grey parrots at Lincolnshire Wildlife Centre have had to be separated because they kept encouraging each other to swear. The foul-mouthed feathered friends, Billy, Eric, Tyson, Jade and Elsie, are now in different bits of the park so they don't set each other off and offend visitors.

## ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE?



**A NEW survey has revealed that feeling loved and supported is a top priority for children's health and wellbeing.**

The research by the Office for National Statistics found that feeling loved and having positive, supportive relationships (particularly with family and friends), including having someone to talk to and rely on, were really important for children to have a happy life.

Feeling safe is also really important for children's happiness, as well as being able to express themselves without being judged by others.

The survey took place between September 2019 and February 2020, so doesn't take into account the effects that lockdown and the pandemic have had on young people's mental health and wellbeing.

However, the Office of the Children's Commissioner looked into how school closures and weeks at home affected young people's stress and anxiety. They carried out surveys of around 2,000 young people aged 8-17, in March and June. The surveys showed that many children actually felt stressed less often as lockdown went on.

## WORLD HOMELESS DAY



**TOMORROW (Saturday 10 October) marks World Homeless Day.**

The housing and homelessness charity Shelter has estimated that one in every 201 people in the UK is now homeless, and this number is likely to go up because of the coronavirus pandemic. World Homeless Day aims to draw attention to homeless people's needs and to help tackle the issue.



## TURIN, ITALY



A VIEW of an artistic work by Saype, a French painter and street artist who specialises in urban and land art. The lawn of the Porte Palatina (Palatine Gate) is the seventh place to host his *Beyond Walls* project. The work represents four hands that shake in a grip, to promote the idea of trust and mutual help. Saype uses biodegradable paints, which last from 15 to 90 days, to create his artwork.

## LONDON, UK



ONE of the four postboxes across the UK that have been painted black to honour black Britons. Decorated to honour comedian Sir Lenny Henry, nurse Mary Seacole, footballer Walter Tull and artist Yinka Shonibare, the Royal Mail postboxes in London, Glasgow, Cardiff and Belfast have been unveiled to coincide with Black History Month.

The Royal Mint



THE Royal Mint's final coin in the James Bond Collection has been released to coincide with James Bond Day (5 October). Special editions of the coins feature micro text of the first 24 film titles. With the help of a magnifying glass, some of the letters appear bold and raised – revealing the title of the 25th James Bond film, *No Time To Die*.

UK



## SAQQARA, EGYPT

Archaeologists have discovered dozens of intact and sealed coffins that were buried more than 2,600 years ago. The 59 coffins, belonging to priests, top officials and other important people, were discovered by an Egyptian archaeological mission at a huge site south of the capital, Cairo.

## CORNWALL, UK



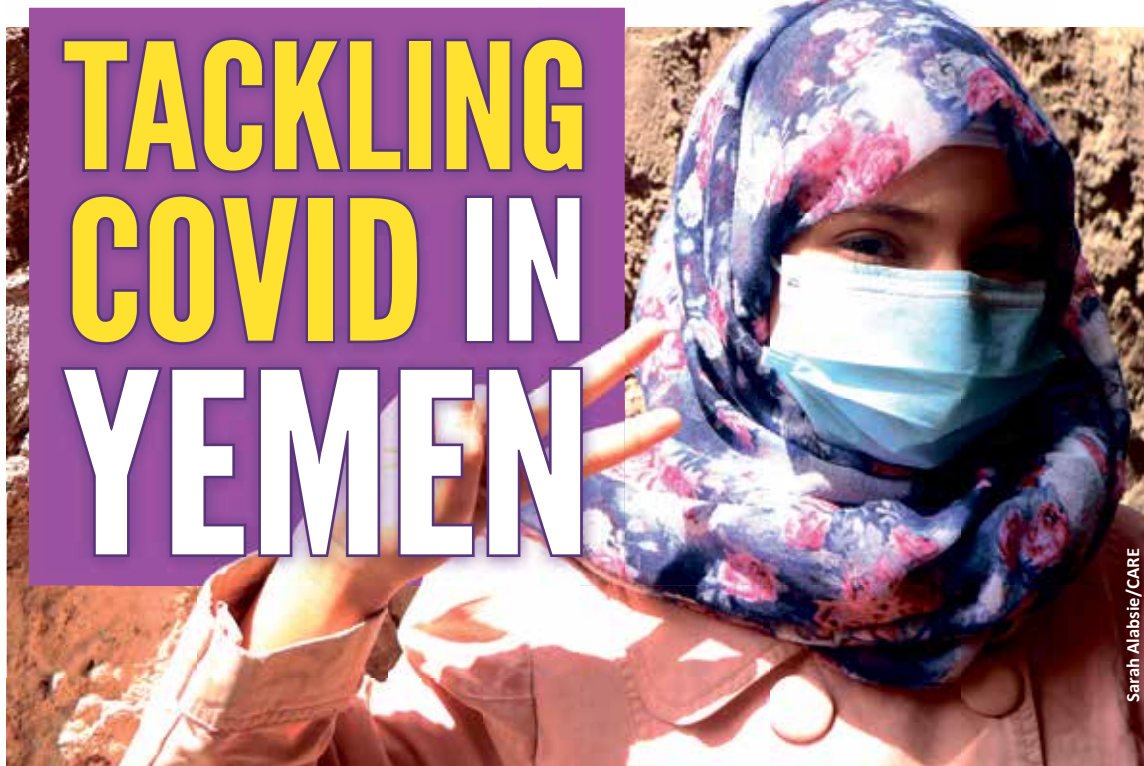
WAVES lash the iconic Monkey Hut at Portreath Harbour, as winds from Storm Alex trigger severe weather warnings. Storm Alex is the first named storm of the 2020-2021 European storm season.



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# TACKLING COVID IN YEMEN



Sarah Alabsie/CARE

## MEET Malak, a girl from Yemen who is trying to make a difference.

Malak is playing her part in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in her community.

Yemen has been in a civil war since 2014. The conflict, between the former government and a group called the Houthis, has also involved other countries – including the UK – who back one side or the other.

The ongoing war has led to more than 100,000 deaths. The healthcare system in Yemen is collapsing, while more than 20 million people are struggling to get the food they need, and 10 million are at risk of famine. The threat of COVID-19 only makes the terrible situation worse. With water in such short supply, handwashing isn't always easy for Yemenis.

Malak attended a COVID prevention workshop

organised by the humanitarian charity CARE International. As a result, she now teaches other kids in her own community about the importance of handwashing.

She says: "Three months ago I learnt how to correctly wash my hands, and other COVID prevention measures. Since then I've been teaching my friends how to wash their hands correctly. We are all heroes. We can all defeat the coronavirus with these simple little steps, then we'll go back to school and fulfil our dreams."

To mark UNICEF's International Day of the Girl on 11 October, we salute Malak's work in trying to get her fellow Yemenis to wash their hands and prevent COVID-19. Well done, Malak!

## WEBSITE TO TRACK COVID LAUNCHED



**THE National Education Union (NEU) has launched a website that shows the COVID-19 rate in the local area of every school in England.**

The site, [www.schoolcovidmap.org.uk](http://www.schoolcovidmap.org.uk), will show the number of coronavirus cases in a school's surrounding area, the trend since last week (an increase or decrease in case numbers), whether or not the school is on a watchlist, and links to any local restrictions in place. It will also encourage people to follow public health guidance for their area.

The website is launching as COVID-19 cases continue to rise across the whole of the UK. There was confusion last week after an IT error meant 15,841 positive test results were left off the official daily figures between 25 September and 2 October. That mistake meant more than 50,000 people were missed by contact tracers. The Labour Party described the situation as "worse than a shambles".

## PICS IN SPACE!

**THE world's first photography exhibition in space has taken place.**

The exhibition saw 400 pictures sent 130,000ft (24.6 miles, 39.6km) into the stratosphere on a framed screen.

The images were shortlisted for Portrait of Humanity, a global initiative that aims to show that there's more that unites us than sets us apart. Photography platform 1845 Media teamed up with Sent Into Space to broadcast the pictures into space. The images also translate into binary code and are beamed through the universe at the speed of light.



## EDITOR'S COMMENT



**CONGRATULATIONS to Timothy (see the story on the front page)!**

I know we've all had to social distance but sailing around Britain on his own was kind of an extreme way of keeping away from other people! Haha!

Anyway, it's an amazing achievement and an example to us all of how we can do anything we want if we set our minds to it. I like his message to *First News* readers on the front page.

It must feel very odd for Timothy being back at school now after 11 weeks out alone on the sea.

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## GOOD WEEK FOR...

### THESE SCIENTISTS

SCIENTISTS Michael Houghton, Harvey Alter and Charles Rice received the Nobel Prize for Medicine, for their discovery of the Hepatitis C virus.

Hepatitis C is the most common cause of liver cancer, and many people need liver transplants because of it. The Nobel committee said that the trio's discovery has saved "millions of lives".



Getty

## BAD WEEK FOR...

### US LOTTERY "WINNER"

AN American woman who won \$1,000 (£770) on a lottery ticket won't be receiving her prize, after her ticket was lost in the mail. Sue Burgess from Tallahassee sent the ticket to her local lottery office – but it never arrived. When she complained, she was told by officials: "No ticket, no prize."



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## THOR HELPS LITTLE DEVILS

**AVENGERS actor Chris Hemsworth has helped release Tasmanian devils back into the wild on Australia's mainland, 3,000 years after they became extinct there.**

Conservation groups, with help from Thor star Chris and his wife Elsa Pataky (right), released 26 Tasmanian devils into a 400-hectare sanctuary at Barrington Tops, north of Sydney.

The mammals have been classed as endangered after a disease wiped out 90% of the population on the island of Tasmania. Tasmanian devils weigh about eight kilos and are known for their extremely loud growl, powerful jaws and feisty nature. They were thought to have been wiped out on the Australian mainland by packs of dingoes (wild dogs).



@7NewsAustralia/Twitter



iStock



## UK

### ● Benefits of e-scooters

The Transport Committee – a group of MPs from different political parties – has published a report saying e-scooters should be made legal for use on roads but not pavements. The committee said that electric scooters, which can travel between 9-15mph, could be a greener option than driving a car. While they state that using them on pavements is “dangerous and anti-social”, they also called for the Government to monitor collisions to make sure they are safe for road use.



## SCOTLAND

### ● MP travelled with COVID

A Scottish MP was facing calls to quit, as *First News* went to press, after it was revealed she had travelled from London to Glasgow with COVID-19. Margaret Ferrier, a member of the Scottish National Party (SNP), travelled on a train from Glasgow to Parliament in London while showing symptoms of COVID-19. She gave a speech in the House of Commons, and tested positive for the coronavirus, yet returned to Glasgow by train the next day. Ms Ferrier has been suspended from the SNP while police investigate.



Margaret Ferrier (left), with SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon

## GLASGOW



### ● Green garbage

Ahead of hosting the COP26 climate change conference next year, Glasgow is set to get the “world’s largest fleet” of hydrogen-powered rubbish trucks. UK transport minister Rachel Maclean says the 19 environmentally friendly trucks will show “how the UK is at the forefront of green transport technology”. It has become possible thanks to a £6.3m investment by the Government, which will also fund the building of a green refuelling station for the vehicles.

## NOTTINGHAM



### ● School surprise

Nottingham Goose Fair normally attracts 420,000 visitors each year but, like so many things, had to be cancelled in 2020. Pupils at Pinewood Infant School were sad to miss the fair, so their teachers brought the fair to them! They transformed the PE hall into Pinewood Goose Fair, and almost 200 pupils enjoyed classic games like Splat-The-Rat and Hook-A-Duck. Pinewood head teacher Rachel Otter said: “The children are coming in in their class bubbles and we’re doing a quick clean in between, then the next group come in.”

## SOMERSET

### ● Birdgirl on RSPB board

Just days after making headlines for her climate strike in the Arctic Circle, Mya-Rose Craig has become the youngest member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds’ (RSPB) advisory committee. The environmental activist, also known as Birdgirl, said: “When I first heard the news I was incredibly excited... My role on this committee will really push them to engage with other communities and different groups of people that they wouldn’t necessarily engage with.”



## SOMERSET

### ● Another emergency

Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) declared an ecological emergency last week. It comes 18 months after the council first declared a climate emergency. SWT says it can deal with the two issues together now, and give them both priority whenever the council is making any plans, such as new housing developments. The council says it will increase the number of wildlife habitats, as well as restore many natural areas and plant more wildflower meadows and trees.



The River Brue, Somerset

## UK

### ● Captain Tom’s podcast

Captain Tom Moore, who raised more than £32m for the NHS by walking around his garden, is due to launch his own podcast. The 100-year-old will guest host *The Originals*, a podcast aimed at encouraging people to start a conversation with an older person. Designed to reduce loneliness and isolation in the elderly, it will include interviews with a bodybuilder in his 80s and a 73-year-old skipping pro.





# YOUNG FOOD CAMPAIGNERS BITE BACK



**FOOD standards campaigners Bite Back 2030 have created a horrifying menu for the House of Commons canteen, to highlight dangers to young people's health.**

The made-up menu includes pancakes covered in high-fructose corn syrup, and super-sized beef steaks that have been enlarged by untested growth hormones.

Along with all the nasty food listed on the menu, Bite Back 2030 have included a message, asking that MPs "help save our standards and protect the health of the nation".

MPs are set to cast their final vote on the Agriculture Bill on 12 October next week, when they'll be able to write environmental, animal welfare and food safety standards into law.

Tasha Mhakayakora, youth leader at Bite Back 2030, said: "If the Prime Minister is truly passionate about leaving a positive legacy for my generation and generations to come, he needs to act now and make sure child health isn't forgotten."

## USE SOAP TO SAVE LIVES

**NEXT Thursday (15 October) is Global Handwashing Day, a day dedicated to reminding the world that handwashing with soap is an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. To beat the virus today and other diseases in the future, wash your hands regularly!**

# CINEMAS IN TROUBLE



**THIS week, Cineworld, Britain's largest cinema chain, announced that it is closing its doors until the COVID-19 pandemic is over.**

They hope to reopen next year when more new films are released. Since cinemas reopened in July there have only been a small number of film releases. Cineworld's boss Mooky Greidinger, blamed the closure on a lack of new films due for release this year. Mr Greidinger described the company's situation like being "a grocery store with no food". The new James Bond film, *No Time To Die*, is the latest film to be delayed until 2021.

Other cinema chains have been hit by the pandemic. Odeon Cinemas has said that a quarter of its cinemas will be closed on weekdays from now on.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson encouraged Brits to go out and enjoy cinemas, saying that "cinemas do now have ways of letting their shows go on in a COVID-secure way, and I'd encourage people to go out to the cinema, enjoy themselves and support those businesses."

## POLL OF THE WEEK

**Have you been to the cinema since they re-opened? Vote at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls)**

# WHEN BREAD ISN'T BREAD!

**THE Irish Supreme Court has ruled that the rolls used at Subway cannot legally be defined as bread, as they contain too much sugar.**

The company that runs Subway stores in Ireland claimed that their rolls are a staple (basic) food, so they shouldn't have to pay VAT (a tax) on them.

Under Ireland's VAT Act of 1972, bread ingredients such as sugar and fat shouldn't be more than 2% of the weight of the flour used to make the dough. Subway's bread had 10%, so under Ireland's laws, it's not bread!



# TRUMP TESTS POSITIVE

**US President Donald Trump tested positive for COVID-19 last week, and was taken to a medical centre for care.**

President Trump has spent much of the pandemic refusing to wear masks, not observing social distancing, and claiming that the virus would disappear on its own – despite White House scientists' advice.

After testing positive last Thursday (1 October), the president was taken to Walter Reed Medical Center on Friday and spent the weekend there.

He was given lots of medication to help prevent a more serious case of the disease. Some of the medicine he took was still being tested.

On Sunday, the president briefly left the medical centre to wave at supporters outside the hospital from a car. This was criticised as Mr Trump was almost certainly still contagious, and could have infected his driver and those around him.

Then, on Monday, President Trump left the medical centre and returned to the White House, where he stood on the balcony and removed his mask.

He also tweeted that he was "feeling better than he did 20 years ago".

Since President Trump's positive diagnosis, many of his closest advisors and fellow politicians were also found to have the disease.

During a question-and-answer session, former vice president Joe Biden, who will be challenging Donald Trump in November's presidential election, said: "Anybody who contracts the virus by essentially saying masks don't matter, social distancing doesn't matter, is responsible for what happens to them."



**US public health guidelines suggest the President should isolate for ten days after receiving a positive test result**



## SWITZERLAND



## ● Minimum wage rise

The Swiss city of Geneva is set to introduce a minimum wage of £41,430 a year, thought to be the highest in the world. Two-thirds of residents voted to raise minimum wages in Geneva, one of the world's most expensive cities, after reports of growing poverty linked to the coronavirus. Workers will receive an hourly rate of almost £19.50, twice that of neighbouring France.



## FRANCE



## ● New animal protections

France's environment minister, Barbara Pompili, has introduced a number of new laws to protect animals. Mink farms are going to be "gradually" banned, wild animals will no longer be a part of travelling circuses, and waterparks will be forbidden from breeding or bringing in new dolphins or killer whales. The minister said that the country's "attitude to wild animals has changed", and that the changes will be put in place in the "years to come".



## ARMENIA



## ● No end to fighting

Fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan is continuing, with hundreds of casualties. The two are fighting over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region that both countries claim as their own. Both nations have also accused each other of launching attacks on cities outside Nagorno-Karabakh and targeting civilians. The two countries first fought from 1918-1922 and again from 1992 until a ceasefire in 1994, which was broken by clashes in 2016. The US, France and Russia put out a statement calling for an end to the fighting.



## BRAZIL



## ● Bolsonaro says no

During the first of three debates between President Donald Trump and his opponent in November's election, Joe Biden, Mr Biden said that he could pay as much as \$20 billion (around £15bn) to Brazil to protect the Amazon rainforest. If Brazil didn't accept, then Mr Biden could make it harder for Brazil to trade with the US, if he gets elected. Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro rejected the offer, stating that Brazil "does not accept bribes".



## JAPAN



## ● Mascot madness

The organisers of Japan's 'most popular mascot' competition have announced that this year's contest will be the last, after the rivalry between competitors became too intense! The Yuru-Chara Grand Prix has been going for ten years and more than 1,000 mascots enter each year. The winning mascot can end up being very successful – merchandise featuring Kumamon (below), the first ever winner of the Yuru-Chara Grand Prix, made £1.15 billion last year!



## ZIMBABWE



## ● Teachers want protection

Teachers in Zimbabwe are refusing to return to work, saying that the government has failed to prepare for schools to reopen safely while COVID-19 is still around. The Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ) says that supplies of sanitiser, masks and clean water are too low to keep teachers protected.



## OUR WORLD



NAME: EILIDH  
LIVES: UK

### AT 15 years old, Eilidh Lynn became concerned about the growing 'anti-vaccination' movement and decided to take action to promote everyone's right to good health.

Eilidh submitted a short essay to the Amnesty International Children's Human Rights Network's 'Use Your Voice To Demand Your Rights' competition, calling for children to have more control over their healthcare.

She says: "Parents are not all-knowing... many of them will not be well enough informed to make these crucial decisions involving vaccinations, which will impact the lives of their children."

Eilidh won the competition and joined the Children's Network at the UN to observe the 82nd Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

"It was so humbling to attend a conference at the United Nations and it was amazing to meet like-minded individuals. It opened up my eyes to the world, all the possibilities and the influence young people hold," she said. Eilidh has since taken a leading role in the Children's Human Rights Network, where she works on improving the rights of children across the world. **The Use Your Voice competition is now open for entry for 10 to 18-year-olds passionate about making a change in their community.**



To find out more, go to  
[www.amnesty.org.uk/use-your-voice](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/use-your-voice)





# PROTECT OUR BIRDS!

LAST week the RSPB released its annual Birdcrime report, which revealed that at least 85 birds of prey were killed illegally in 2019.

It's illegal to hunt, kill or injure birds of prey in the UK, but buzzards, red kites, peregrine falcons, golden eagles and hen harriers were all targeted. The RSPB's Birdcrime report lists trapping, shooting and poisoning as causes of deaths, half of which were in areas where grouse shooting is a popular sport.

Mark Thomas, RSPB Head of Investigations, said: "At a time when the world – and the UK in particular – is seeing catastrophic declines in wildlife populations, the destruction of rare wildlife looks like the opposite of progress. Healthy birds of prey populations are key indicators of the health of our environment. Yet there could be more than 12 times as many hen harriers breeding in England if illegal killing stopped."

The RSPB is urging the Government to bring in tougher rules to help protect our native birds.



iStock



Ede the okapi in her new surroundings at ZSL London Zoo

## OH, KAPI DAY!



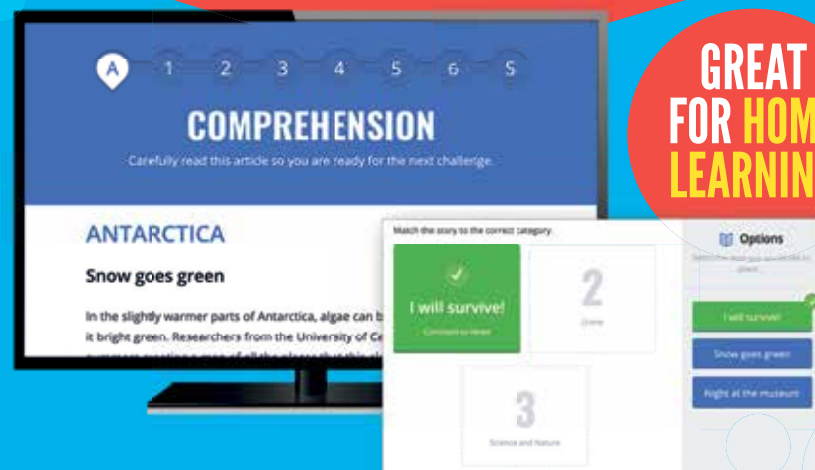
ONE of the animal stars of the documentary series *London Zoo: An Extraordinary Year* has given birth to a healthy baby girl.

Oni the okapi welcomed baby Ede on 20 September after a 16-month pregnancy. Cameras followed Oni and her pregnancy as the zoo adjusted to life in lockdown. One challenge they faced was performing a tricky ultrasound scan on Oni while making sure everyone maintained social distancing.

Okapi are unusual-looking animals that are endangered in the wild. They can only be found in the forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, making Ede's birth fantastic news for ZSL London Zoo and the species.

## FIRST NEWS HOME iHUB

THE AWARD-WINNING, INTERACTIVE, ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM



BY popular demand, the First News iHub, used by schools, is now available to subscribe to at home!

The iHub is packed with multi-level literacy activities to help children from 7-14 develop key reading, comprehension and writing skills – while learning about amazing news stories from around the world.

HEAD TO [WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB](http://WWW.FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK/HOMEIHUB) TO LEARN MORE!



First News has teamed up with **sky kids** show **FYI** and the **young audiences CONTENT FUND** to make a series of videos called *I Don't Get It* for you to watch at home or at school. The plan is to explain stuff that can be complicated or difficult to understand. **Saturday 10 October** is **World Mental Health Day**, so FYI presenter Ruby asks:

# MENTAL HEALTH

SKY Kids FYI presenter Ruby asks why so many young people are struggling with their mental health. With all the stress of modern living, what can we do to make sure we look after our mental health?

HOW DO I STAY MENTALLY HEALTHY?

"Hello! How are you?" It's such a simple question, but giving an honest answer can be quite tricky, right? Sometimes we feel fed up, or that we're not doing as well as our friends at school, or that no-one likes us – but is this a mental health issue or not?

exactly as you are.

"Another issue that can cause mental health problems is that four million children are living in poverty these days. And you can understand that if you feel stuck in a situation like that, then it can lead to making you feel more down and depressed than if you were in an easier situation."

## WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?

We all know when there's something physically wrong with us, like a broken arm or a stomach ache, but your mental health is much harder to work out. It's basically how you're feeling in your mind.

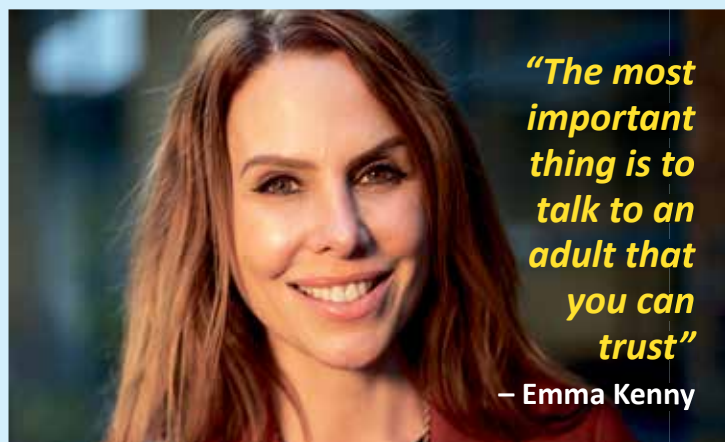
## HOW DO I KNOW IF I'VE GOT A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM?

If you're mainly happy and able to cope with stressful things, like an exam paper, then you've probably got good mental health. But if you're nearly always feeling sad or unhappy or, even worse, like that all the time, it might be a warning sign that you need to get some help. Maybe you're not sleeping because you're constantly worried.

## IS IT TRUE THAT MORE CHILDREN THAN EVER ARE SUFFERING FROM POOR MENTAL HEALTH?

Here's the thing. If you're suffering with poor mental health, you're not alone. The experts reckon that one in eight of us are dealing with some sort of mental health issue at any one time – and it seems to be getting worse.

To help us find out why so many kids are struggling with mental health, we asked child psychologist Emma Kenny, who helps loads of kids in her clinic. She told us: "First of all, you've got to remember there are lots of different types of mental health issues. One of the most common types is anxiety. Everyone gets a little bit anxious and worried at times, but it becomes an illness when it goes on for months and it really stops you living a normal life. As for why there seems such an increase, well, I think that social media plays a big part in it. It's quite easy for people to be bullied online or to be teased for the way that they look, but you've got to remember that your true friends will always accept you



*"The most important thing is to talk to an adult that you can trust"*

– Emma Kenny

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK I HAVE A PROBLEM?

"The most important thing is to talk to an adult that you can trust. It might be your parents or a teacher, but you really shouldn't be ashamed of anything that you feel, because it's not your fault that you're feeling unwell, and there are so many people that can help you. Usually, that will mean talking through your issues and problems with a professional counsellor. And, in some cases, your doctor might be able to speak to you about taking some medication. It's whatever works for you, that's what's important."

## HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY MENTAL HEALTH?

Here's the good news. There are lots of small things you can do that make a big difference to your mental health, like running, swimming or playing football, for example. Exercise is not just good for your body, it's good for your mind. But if the idea of getting sporty fills you with horror, then why not try a different hobby, like learning to play an instrument, dancing or even painting?

Emma has some more advice: "I know we all love our gadgets, me included, but we don't have to use them all the time. Sometimes it's good to talk to your friends face to face instead of messaging them or sending them pictures. And take lots of screen breaks; it'll really help you to stay mentally healthy."

There are details about where to get mental health help and support at [first.news/fyi](https://first.news/fyi)

Kids – you can watch the *I Don't Get It* video on mental health at [first.news/IDGI](https://first.news/IDGI).

Teachers – you can watch the film in the classroom alongside our tie-in award-winning educational resources at [schools.firstnews.co.uk](https://schools.firstnews.co.uk)

Next week – **AI: are robots taking over?**





HM Government

**NHS**

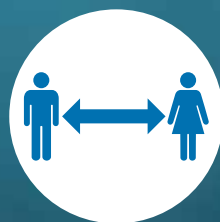
**I make  
space to  
protect  
you.**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

**STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES**



# CELEBRATING JOHN TYNDALL

**THIS year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of John Tyndall, the Irish physicist credited with discovering the science behind climate change.**

He became one of the most influential scientists in the world and a senior figure at the Royal Institution (Ri), the British organisation that promotes science learning for young and old alike.

In this science special, we take a look at Tyndall's life and his now legendary contribution to our understanding of global warming.

Tyndall was born on 2 August 1820 in County Carlow, Ireland. He worked as a surveyor for the Ordnance Survey (OS) in Ireland before moving to England in 1842. The OS fired him in 1843 after he campaigned for better working conditions and higher wages.

His next job only lasted nine days, but he soon found work at a railway engineering company in Manchester. In 1847, aged 27, he became a teacher.

Tyndall quickly became a respected scientist. In 1853, he was invited to give his first Friday lecture at the Royal Institution. More than 300 people turned up to hear him speak. Tyndall was appointed professor of natural philosophy at the Ri.

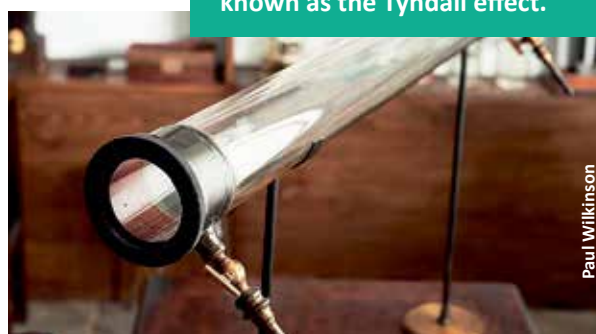
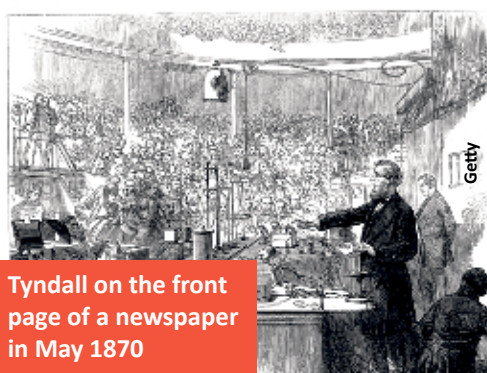
In 1858, Tyndall climbed Monte Rosa, the second highest mountain in the Alps. He did it in a short-sleeved shirt with half a flask of tea and a bacon sandwich!

18 May 1859 was a very significant day for Tyndall and, though nobody knew it at the time, the world. It was when he began to explore the absorption of heat by gases. This is what would later come to be known as the greenhouse effect, which drives climate change. Tyndall designed a piece of equipment, which is on display at the Ri, that enabled him to detect the absorption of very small amounts of heat given off from a copper cube containing boiling water. He could measure whether the gas absorbed heat or not, and compare different gases.

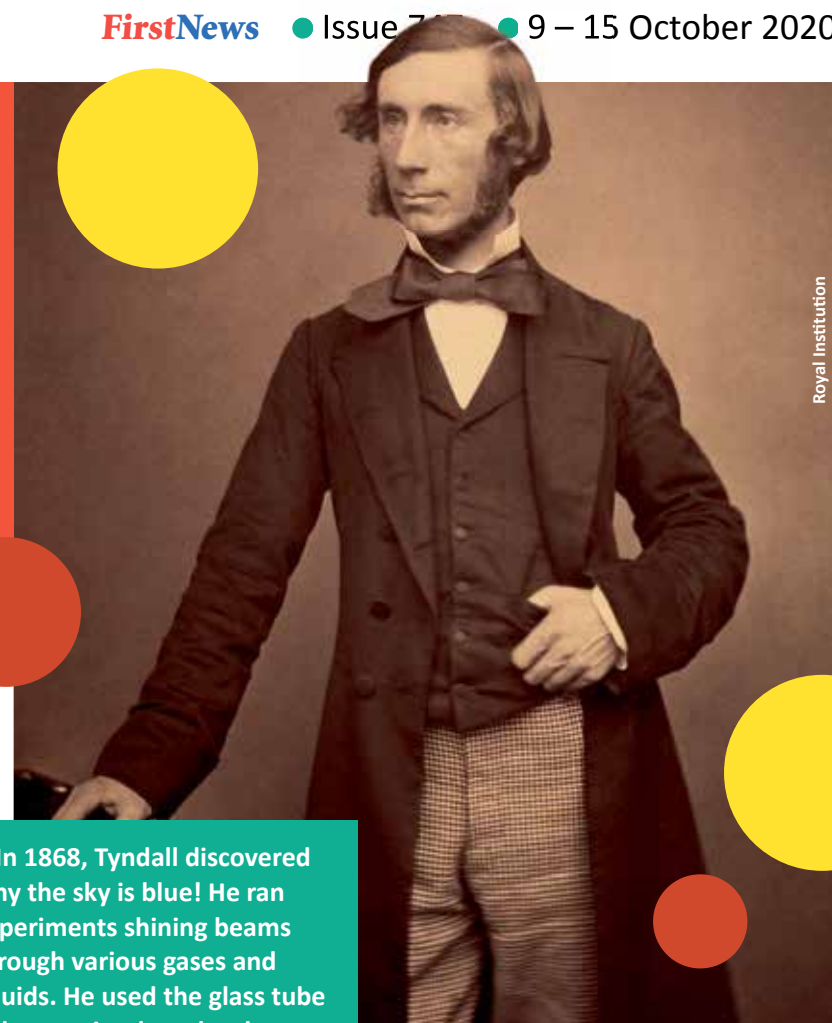
These experiments showed clearly, for the first time, that both carbon dioxide and water vapour could absorb heat. This was one of the founding discoveries of climate science, and led to our understanding of the greenhouse effect. Tyndall made the first direct link between changing amounts of carbon dioxide and water vapour in the atmosphere and the change in temperature in the atmosphere over very long time scales.



Tyndall on the front page of a newspaper in May 1870



In 1868, Tyndall discovered why the sky is blue! He ran experiments shining beams through various gases and liquids. He used the glass tube below to simulate the sky, with a white light at one end to represent the sun. Tyndall realised that, when he filled the tube with smoke, the beam of light appeared to be blue from the side but red from the end. He worked out that the colour of the sky is a result of light from the sun scattering around particles in the upper atmosphere. This became known as the Tyndall effect.



Royal Institution

## ALL ABOUT THE RI

The Royal Institution was founded in 1799 by a group of Britain's top scientists who wanted to make science relevant, accessible and exciting.

The Ri building in London contains a museum that displays 3,500 items, which tell the story of some of the early pioneers at the Ri, such as John Tyndall. Due to COVID-19, the museum is currently closed and the regular public lectures at the Ri are now taking place online. They're live-streamed every Tuesday, and are free. You can see the upcoming talks – and learn more about Tyndall – at [www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org).

The Ri is most famous for its annual Christmas lectures. First News has interviewed the scientists giving the talks for the past three years – and we'll be doing so again this December.

This report is from our friends at the Science and Industry in Manchester

SCIENCE  
MUSEUM  
GROUP

## FROM one birthday celebration to another!

Thursday 8 October would have been John Benjamin Dancer's 208th birthday. He was a British scientific instrument maker and inventor of microphotography – where images are made so small that you can only view them through a microscope. He also developed cameras for stereoscopic photography (pictured), which makes images look 3D.

Photography is part of our everyday lives now, but in the 19th century it was brand-new. Dancer was an early adopter of the new technology and is believed to be the first person to take a photograph in Manchester.

Next February at the Manchester Science Festival you can explore scientific photography with the Royal Photographic Society's Young Science Photographer of the Year competition.

The competition is now open to anyone aged 17 and under. Find out more at [www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/manchester-science-festival](http://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/manchester-science-festival).



Science Museum Group

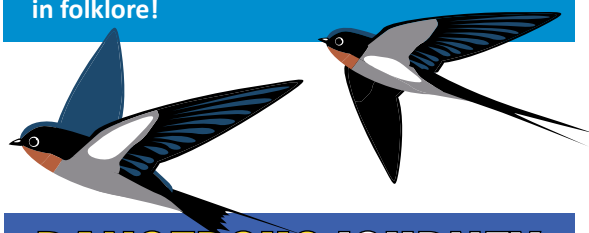


## SWIFT GOODBYE

It's sad saying goodbye to our summer migrants like swifts and swallows, who leave our shores to fly hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles to reach warmer spots for the winter. But it's also wonderful to welcome our autumn visitors. When it comes to long-haul flying, they're all pretty epic!

We love swifts – they are amazing birds, undertaking non-stop flights to Africa in the autumn. They will fly across seas, huge land masses, even the Sahara desert, to find the insects they need to survive over our winter months. And all this from a bird that weighs just 40g – about the same as a Cadbury Creme Egg!

But then imagine you were even smaller, just 5g (the weight of a 5p coin), and had to fly all the way from Scandinavia. You have to leave the place you were born or have just raised a family, as snow is coming! Your journey means crossing the cold, vast North Sea and stopping off on oil rigs to look for crumbs and have a break. It's easy to see why the tiny goldcrest – the UK's smallest bird – was known as the 'king of the birds' in folklore!



## DANGEROUS JOURNEY

Colder weather in Arctic regions like Scandinavia, Greenland, northern Canada and Russia is what tells many birds it's time to leave. They need to find somewhere warmer to spend winter where there's plenty of food.

Their flights are long and include lots of dangers. One of the big problems is finding places to stop and feed. Birds need to eat and rest, just like we do on a long journey, but there aren't lots of service stations on their routes! When they do find somewhere, they then have to look out for unfamiliar predators. Throw in bad weather, lots of man-made hazards such as electricity pylons and skyscrapers, and it almost sounds like mission impossible! But when they do reach the UK, these birds are rewarded with coasts and estuaries providing the food and resting sites that are ideal for wildfowl and waders like pink-footed geese and grey plovers, and land rich with the berries, fruit and seeds needed by hungry thrushes like redwing and fieldfare.

Knowing what these migrating birds are looking for means we can design and adapt our nature reserves to provide just what they need. This protects the reserves for winter and means they're also great places to see some amazing spectacles, like thousands of birds flocking together! But if you can't get to one, there are lots of migrant birds to see in places like fields and parks – even your garden sometimes. When you do, remember just how far they've come and what dangers they've faced to be here!



Chris Gomersall

# EPIC MIGRATIONS

IF you had fun spotting lots of different birds in your garden or when you were out on walks during lockdown, prepare to see some more new faces this autumn – and you wouldn't believe some of the journeys they take to reach the UK!



Chris Gomersall

## TOP BIRDS TO SPOT THIS AUTUMN



Ben Andrew

**Goldcrest** – tiny but mighty! Look out for them in parks and woods with conifer trees.



Ben Andrew

**Bewick's swans** – have an epic 3,500km journey here from Russia! You might see them feeding on leftover crops in fields.



Chris Gomersall

**Knots** – they make amazing sky-filling flocks when they gather! They love muddy estuaries, so the coast is the place to see them.



Ben Andrew

**Redwing** – these small thrushes love fruit and you might just spot them in your garden or park if there's any fallen fruit or plants with tasty berries on them!



Andy Hay

**Pink-footed geese** – look out for their noisy V formations overhead! Flying like this helps the birds save energy and travel further.

Find out more about visiting birds and what you can do to help them this winter by visiting [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



## INTERACTIVE TRACK SYSTEM

# GRAVITRAX

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF GRAVITY

WITH the GraviTrax interactive track system, you can design and build your own incredible tracks and experiment with gravity, magnetism and movement to propel your gravity sphere to the finish.

Using a variety of tiles, levels, tracks and action features, you can control the speed of your gravity sphere. Hit a snag? Use your problem-solving skills to rebuild and try something different! There are endless possibilities to design a different track each time, as you explore how the laws of physics affect your gravity sphere's journey.

You can even use cool expansion sets and add-ons to give more speed and excitement to your track!



Discover more about GraviTrax at [www.gravitrax.co.uk](http://www.gravitrax.co.uk)

GraviTrax is suitable for age eight years and up.



Please note: Image is for illustrative purposes only, multiple sets have been used.

## GRAVITRAX STARTER SET

With over 100 components, there is plenty to get your imagination flowing! Experiment with your own designs or start with the included blueprints. Connect cool add-ons to your tracks for endless possibilities! (RRP £49.99)

There's a range of cool add-ons (sold separately) to add even more excitement to your tracks! Check out some of our favourites below!

## MAGNETIC CANNON

Get a major boost in speed. If you have to go uphill, the Magnetic Cannon will help. (RRP £9.99, also included in the Starter Set)



## SPIRAL

Take your gravity sphere on a dizzying journey from one level to another. (RRP £9.99)



## LOOP

Work out how much momentum you need to make it around the loop! (RRP £9.99)

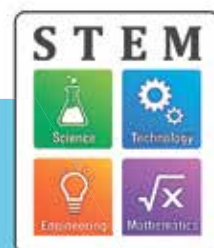


## ZIPLINE

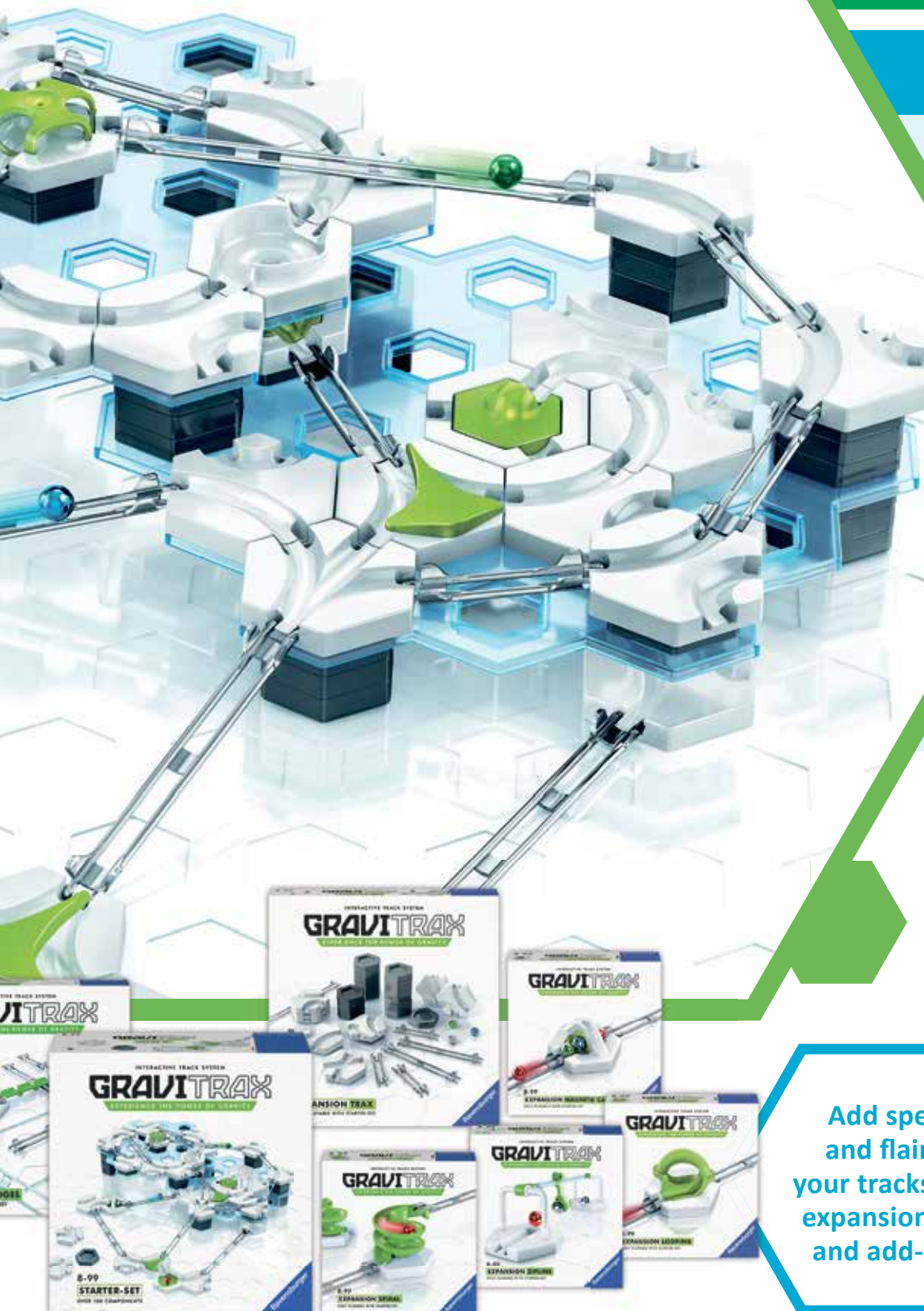
Combine the Zipline with the GraviTrax Starter Set for spectacular gliding action. (RRP £9.99)



Add speed and flair to your tracks with expansion sets and add-ons.



Ravensburger





## ■ Can you tell us a bit about *The Wizard in my Shed*?

It is a book about a wizard – well, he's a warlock, which is a bad wizard – and his name is Merdyn. He is sentenced to spend seven years locked up, but his enemy wants rid of him for good, so sends him to the Rivers of Time. From there he ends up in modern-day Britain, where he meets Rose. She wants to win a talent show, so they hatch a plan to help each other out. Rose says she'll help him return to his own time, and Merdyn will give her a singing spell. Comedy ensues!

## ■ Where did the idea for the book come from?

I thought the movie *ET* was wonderful, and I suppose that stuck in my memories. A friendship between a kid and a creature. Except, I thought what if instead it was a wizard, and he could do magic, and he'd been in the Rivers of Time? When writing *Paddington*, one of the joys is to think about what it would be like to live with a bear – and with this, I thought: "What would it be like to live with a wizard?" – and that's what Rose does.

## ■ You've written for both kids and grown-ups – is there a difference?

It's an odd one; they're not entirely different. You're much freer writing for kids, but kids are also very judgemental! Like, if you tell a joke, kids will just say: "That wasn't funny." Making kids laugh is one of the hardest things to do, so as long as I'm making kids laugh, then things are good! The book isn't childish though – there are some grown-up themes in it. Merdyn is a complex guy. So hopefully kids and adults will enjoy it.

## ■ What would you do if you had Merdyn's powers?

I'd do good! First thing I'd do is fly, that'd be cool. I'd make myself invisible... stop some shoplifting. I'd be a crime-fighter, a bit like Batman, finding injustices and putting them right – surprising them with my astonishing powers!



SIMON Farnaby, the BAFTA-award-winning writer and actor behind the *Horrible Histories* TV series and the *Paddington* films, is releasing his first book later this month! We spoke to Simon about what he'd do with magic powers, what his favourite old-timey words are, and discussed the astonishing amount of poo that guinea pigs produce.

## ■ In the book, there's a guinea pig who is constantly pooing! Does this come from experience with guinea pigs?

Yes, I was astonished by the rate of poos these things do. We had two male guinea pigs, named Bobbles and Wonder Woman by my daughter, but we had to give one away – since there were just too many poos! My daughter loves it when I do voices, and guinea pigs are always quite nervous, so I'd do a voice like: "I'm going to do a poo, here it comes!" and that really inspired Bubbles in the book.

## ■ Before this, you'd written for movies.

### What's different about writing a book?

When you write a script, you hand it over to a director, the actors and the costume and set designers, but with a book, you've got all those jobs yourself. You design the sets! You can go: "The character walks into a cave and it has a fancy chandelier hanging, and lots of mirrors everywhere." On a film, a set designer will go: "Yeah, we can't have that, it's too expensive." So, you end up with a cave, and the cave is dark. It's very freeing to write and create images in people's minds.

## ■ Did any of your *Horrible Histories* historical knowledge come in handy when you were writing the book?

I think playing villainous characters in *Horrible Histories* came through. Merdyn starts off quite villainous and that helped me find his voice, which always makes writing easier. I think it comes across as more authentic if you can really hear them speaking. It comes across on the page. I think it helped with some of the language as well. I do have a lot of genuine language from the past in the book, like the names they used to call people, which is quite *Horrible Histories*, turning facts into funny things.

## ■ Do you have any favourite old English terms or words that you can share with us?

I like 'Odds bodkins!' which means 'God's little body'! I broke a glass the other day, and yelled: "Odds bodkins!" – which went down well with my wife. I like 'fopdoodle', when someone is lazy, or useless. You know, there's a theory that 'dude' came from fopdoodle in America. Dude!

## ■ Do you have any advice for readers who might want to write a book one day?

I think stories should be taught in school! I try to teach my daughter how to write stories. We've got rules – rule one is 'character', rule two is 'what do they want?', rule three is 'what's in their way?', rule four is 'let's have a villain', and rule number five is 'happy ending'! And really, you only need three: character, what they want and what's in their way – I wish someone had taught me that in school! It's quite hard to write a story. You think: "Oh, I like stories", but then you don't know how they're made up, or where to start. In my daughter's stories, she doesn't want anything bad to happen, and I remember that as a kid. I like this character, I don't want them to feel sad! But conflict is story – all stories have obstacles. Sometimes it's hard to put a character through

that, but you have to. So my advice is find a character you like, give them something they want, then really put them through it!



**The Wizard in my Shed: The Misadventures of Merdyn the Wild** by Simon Farnaby is out now

## CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS

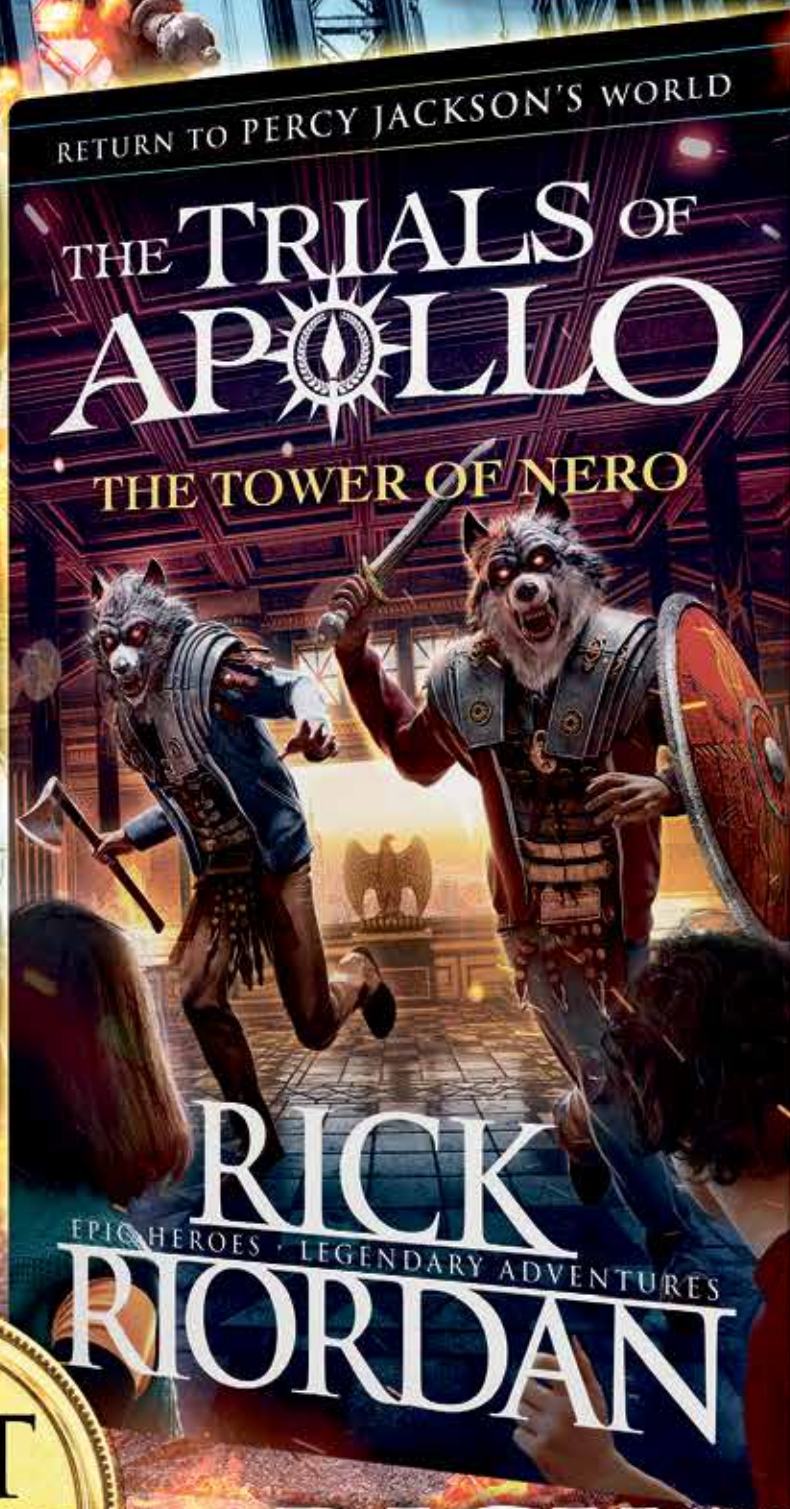




RETURN TO PERCY JACKSON'S WORLD



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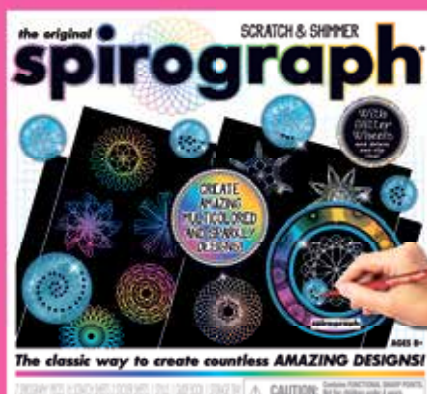




# WIN! SPIROGRAPH

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

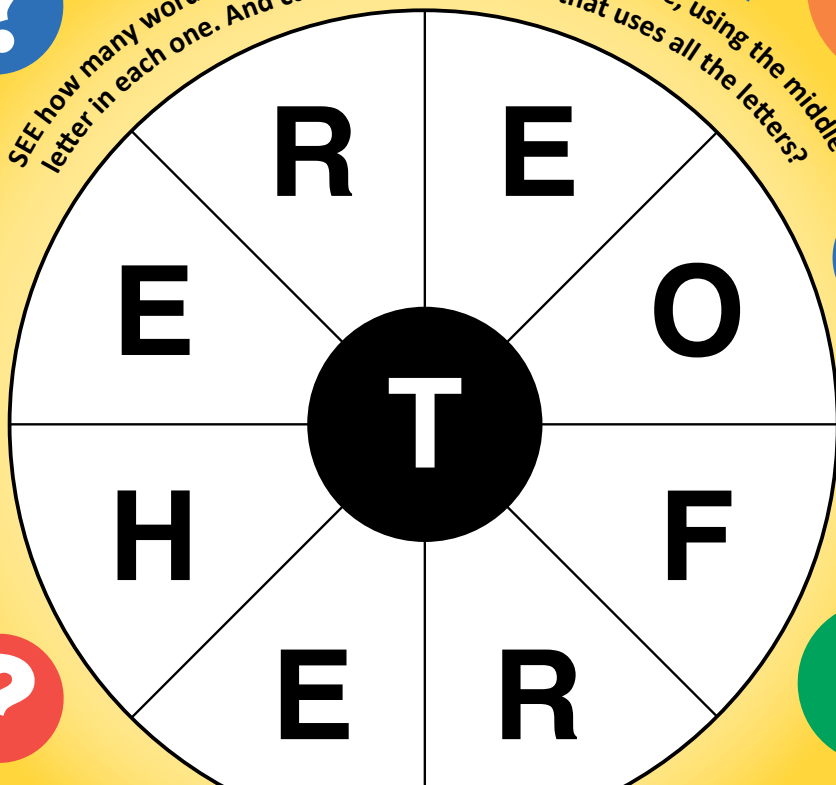
Send in your answers and two lucky readers will win a Spirograph Scratch & Shimmer set. The Original Super Spirograph is back and better than ever! The classic interchangeable Spiro-Tracks let you create your own unique-patterned shapes, taking your designs to a whole new and super level. This jumbo 75+ piece set comes in a durable storage case with a work surface, and features a real metal die-cast #50 Spirograph wheel to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the original Spirograph. [www.flairgp.co.uk](http://www.flairgp.co.uk)



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# WORD WHEEL

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



# WORD LADDER

SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

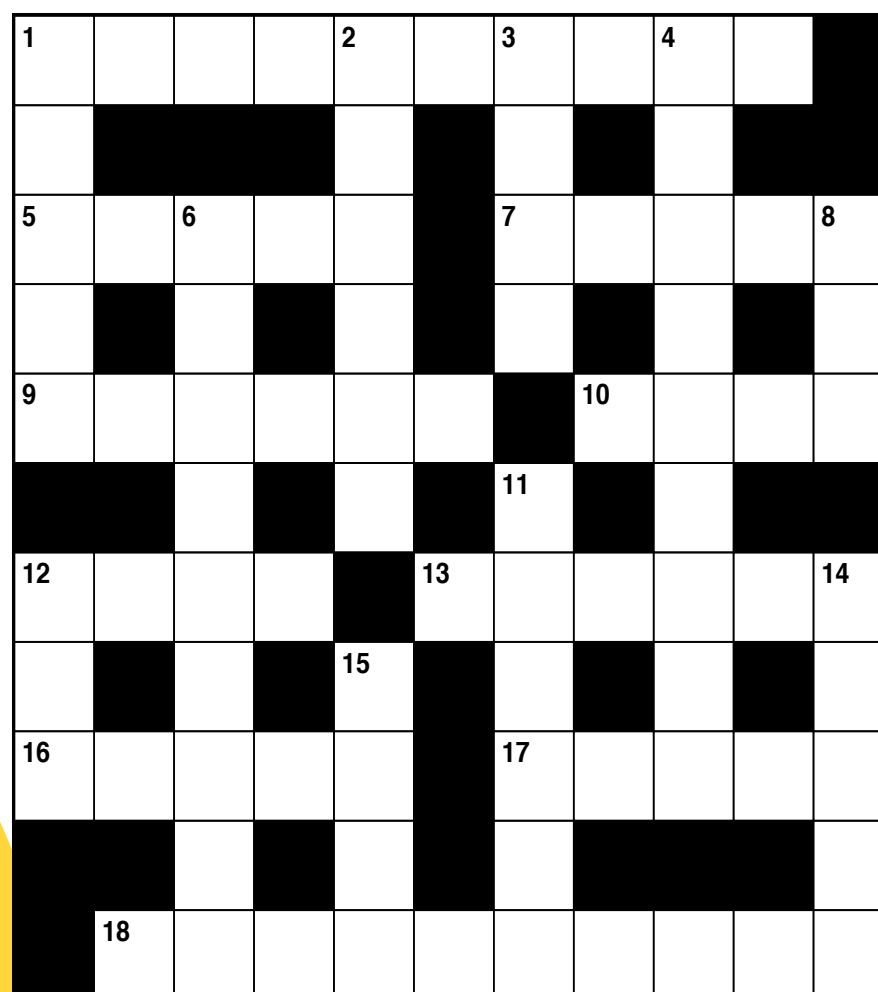


BAND

HUMS

# CROSSWORD

JUST for fun this week! Can you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?



## ACROSS

- 1 Not natural; made by people (10)
- 5 Beads (anag) (5)
- 7 Not clear; indistinct (5)
- 9 Made the sound of a lion (6)
- 10 An individual thing (4)
- 12 A reflected sound (4)
- 13 Secretly observing or watching (6)
- 16 Go swimming in the sea (5)
- 17 Picture (5)
- 18 Area of a house (6,4)

## DOWN

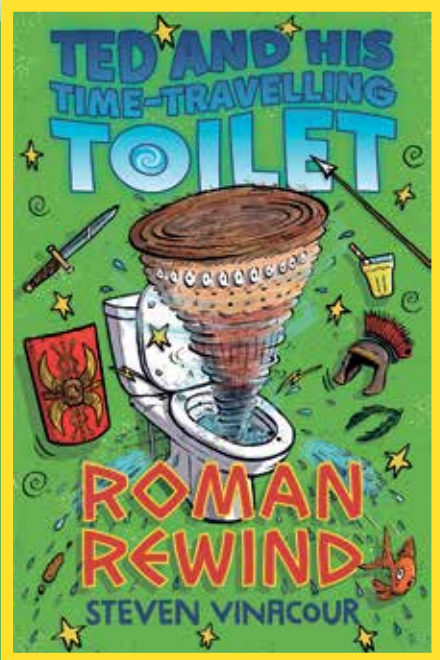
- 1 Middle traffic light colour (5)
- 2 Move restlessly (6)
- 3 Big hole in a mountain (4)
- 4 Country whose capital is Buenos Aires (9)
- 6 \_\_\_ bolognese: popular Italian food dish (9)
- 8 Have some food (3)
- 11 A season (6)
- 12 Flow back or recede (3)
- 14 Shine brightly (5)
- 15 \_\_\_ Moore: Hollywood actress (4)



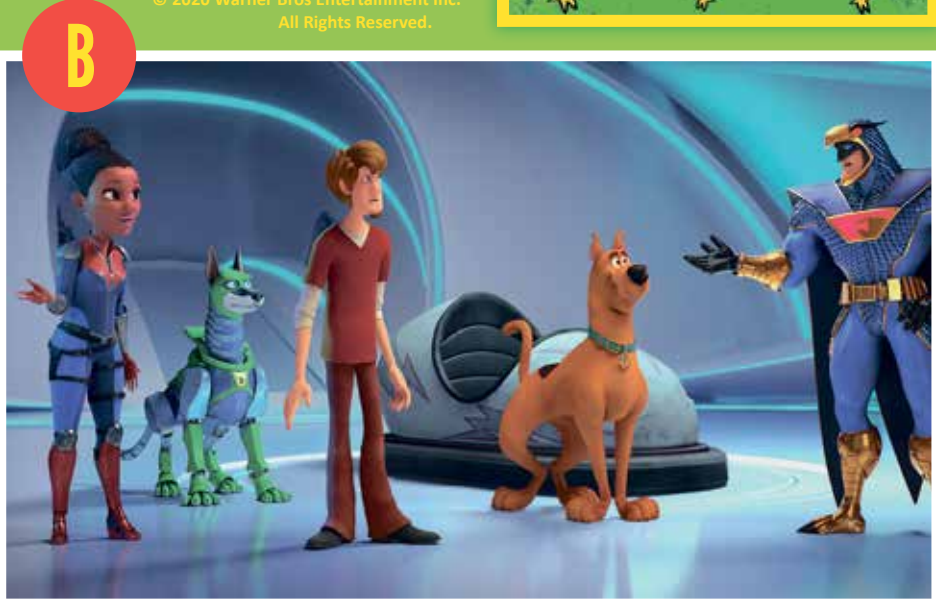
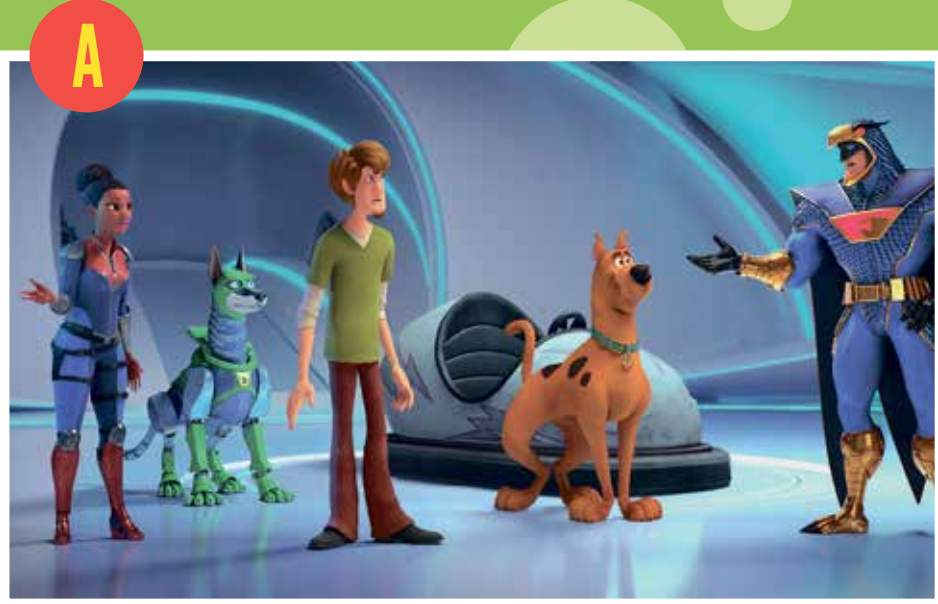
**HOW TO ENTER:** Send your finished puzzles by email to [win@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:win@firstnews.co.uk). Don't forget to put **Puzzles 747** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 15 October 2020**.

# WIN! TED AND HIS TIME-TRAVELLING TOILET BOOKS

CAN you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Scoob!? Send in your answers and four lucky readers will win a copy of *Ted and His Time-Travelling Toilet: Roman Rewind*. The unusual, secret powers of Ted's time-travelling toilet will immerse you in adventure as Ted searches for the answers to all of his most burning questions: "What did the Romans wear? How did they get from place to place?" and, most importantly: "Will I win the prize for the best school project on the Romans?" When Ted climbs into the bowl of his toilet he is sucked into the past, and taken to meet Roman soldiers as they prepare to invade Britain.



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# WIN! A SPOOK-TACULAR FAMILY DAY OUT AT THE LEGOLAND® WINDSOR RESORT



**THE LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort is offering one lucky reader the chance to win six tickets to join Lord Vampyre and enjoy a family day out at Brick or Treat.**

From 15 October – 8 November, little monsters are invited to get their fangs stuck into a host of spooky LEGO® activities. There will be plenty of fun for the whole family, including the Haunted Lighthouse Halloween Show (new for 2020), the Brick or Treat Trail, LEGO character meet-and-greets, as well as tons of spooky photo opportunities with giant LEGO models.

You can also delve back into the Enchanted Forest for a mysterious walk-through with plenty of spooky sights and sounds. Plus, join Lord Vampyre and his monster friends at the Haunted House Monster Party ride, and the Resort's other awesome rides, shows and attractions. Pre-booking is required.

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



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**ENTER NOW!**

**MARK YOUR ENTRY LEGOLAND**

Find out more about the LEGOLAND Windsor Resort at [www.LEGOLAND.co.uk](http://www.LEGOLAND.co.uk)

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see below. The closing date is 22 October 2020.

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

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

**Spot the difference:** Cat's green button has been removed, boot in background is blue, poster added to plant pot, dog's face is now all black, part of wheel has been filled in.  
**Word ladder:** nice, lice, lick, lock, look, cook.  
**Word wheel:** identical.

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# JOIN THE DANGER GANG

AUTHOR and McFly star Tom Fletcher has a new book out, and this time it's not about dinosaurs or Christmas! He told us more about *The Danger Gang*...



● **Tell us a little bit about *The Danger Gang*. What can we expect?**

*The Danger Gang* is about a kid called Franky who has to move town, say goodbye to his best friend and try to make new friends in his new school. One night, a strange storm zaps the town with green lightning, transforming his new friends and his town, sending them on a mysterious adventure. I wanted to write about a gang of kids who are united by a strange event and become an awesome gang!

● **What's your favourite thing about Franky as a character?**

I loved writing in Franky's voice in the form of a letter to his best friend, because it allows you to be really fun and casual. Writing it honestly made me feel like being a kid again, and I hope that comes across. He's a kid who wants fun and adventure... who doesn't?!

● **What will surprise fans about this book?**

It's my first middle-grade book in first person, and because of that the style is a little different. It's less of my narrator's voice and more straight from the head of Franky writing, unfiltered, to his best friend.

● **The kids in the book want to be super spies, but what kind of spy would you be?**

I'd be pretty lame. I mean, I can't even touch my toes, which I'm pretty sure is the first thing they teach at spy school.

● **There are lots of cool gadgets and inventions in your book – are there any that you'd like to have in real life?**

Well, I think my wife would love the Husband-O-Shush, but there's no way she'd be able to handle that gadget responsibly. I'd settle for some hover boots if Franky's mum ever has time to invent them.

● **Are *The Danger Gang* based on a group of friends from your childhood?**

I had a few super-close friends and we got up to all sorts of mischief. We were definitely a danger gang and I drew from those experiences. I also get a lot of inspiration from my three sons, who are turning into the ultimate danger gang!

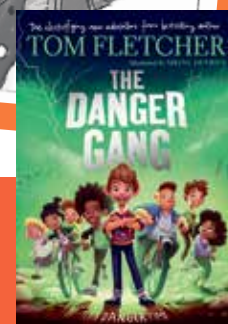
● **What's the most dangerous thing you've got up to in real life?**

I'm not sure you'd be able to print it, and if there's one lesson to be learnt from this book, it's this: if something goes wrong and you're to blame...

**DON'T WRITE IT DOWN!**



**The Danger Gang** by Tom Fletcher and illustrated by Shane DeVries is out now





## THIS WEEK

**1** Pop band Kidz Bop will release their brand-new album *Kidz Bop 2021* on 23 October. The album will be packed with 22 family-friendly versions of hit pop songs. The band have just filmed a virtually distanced video with the Kidz Bop kids from Germany and America. Fourteen kids filmed parts for the advert in six cities, and the clips will be edited together for the final film, which you will be able to see nearer Christmas.



**2** Don't miss the final of *Britain's Got Talent* on Saturday, when the winner will be crowned. The show has been in a bit of hot water this series, with Amanda's dresses, Alesha's jewellery and Diversity's dance routines all getting complaints. But it's been a brilliant series and we can't wait to see who wins!

**3** Singer and *Strictly Come Dancing* contestant HRVY has tested positive for COVID-19. The star is isolating at home in the hope that he'll be better in time for the launch of the show. The contestants are being tested twice a week to see if they have the coronavirus. They'll meet their dance partners on 12 October, but if they test positive after that, they'll be forced to leave the show.

## PIGS OF THE WEEK

**A NEW** breed of rollercoaster is being launched at Universal's Islands of Adventure in 2021, and it's inspired by the most dangerous dinosaurs of all – **Velociraptors!**

This early concept art has just been released for the Jurassic World VelociCoaster. The huge ride will feature a brand-new story set in the Jurassic World universe, with characters from the Jurassic World film series appearing. Join them as you race beside a hunting pack of Velociraptors along 1.5km of track.

The ride will be Florida's fastest and tallest launch coaster, and you can expect twists, turns, barrel rolls, loops and Universal's steepest rollercoaster drop yet.

It sounds terrifying, and exciting, and we can't wait to hear more!



## SPACE ADVENTURE



An exciting new film, *Ben 10 Versus The Universe: The Movie*, premieres on Cartoon Network this week. Check out these cool facts about it.

In this action-packed animation, a blast from the past sends Ben on an adventure into outer space for his most dangerous mission yet!

While Ben battles to save the galaxy, back on Earth, Gwen and Grandpa Max are left to defend the planet. But who will save them when they are in grave danger?

In this movie, Ben must defeat the most dangerous villain he's ever faced, but Vilgax is made entirely of tentacles, Ben's biggest fear. Argh!



One of the key messages of this new story is the importance of family. Will Patrick, supervising producer on the film, says: "In the movie, Ben is constantly being reminded of how important it is to care about other people. I hope kids watching understand that we are all equally important."



Making a feature-length movie is a much bigger project than working on a TV series. Five teams worked alongside each other to make *Ben 10 Versus The Universe: The Movie*. They all worked on their own sections, but had to work hard to make sure all the sections flowed together!

A large part of the movie was produced at home during COVID-19 lockdowns. Will Patrick explains: "Most of the editing and sound mixing happened when we were at home, which was a little tricky. But we got through it and figured it out."

The movie has a much darker feel than the popular cartoon series, although it's still packed with the usual jokes, fun and aliens!

See *Ben 10 Versus The Universe: The Movie* when it premieres on Cartoon Network, 10 October at 10am.



## 22. GAME ZONE

# THE BIG NEWS FROM MINECRAFT LIVE!

LAST Saturday (3 October), Mojang, the team behind *Minecraft*, hosted *Minecraft Live*, where they revealed some very exciting new features coming to the game.

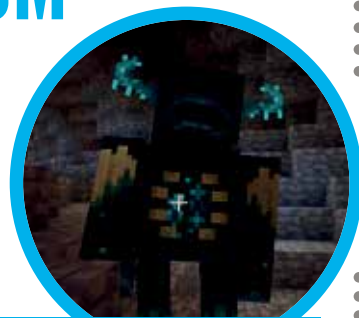
The biggest news from Mojang was the announcement of the next major event coming to *Minecraft*: the *Caves & Cliffs* update!

The system that generates caves in the game is getting an upgrade, meaning that bigger, stranger caves will be coming to your games. Along with that, a new experience has been announced: the 'Lush caves'. These plant-filled caverns will be home to a very special, adorable new mob called the Axolotl. Cutest mob yet? We think so!

You'll also be able to find copper ore in caves, which will age over time, and amethysts. Together, they can be used to create a telescope.

There's a new, scary mob coming into caves too. The Warden will chase you down by following noises that you make, so make sure you're crouching if you think you're near one!

During *Minecraft Live*, a vote was held on which new mob should come to the game. The new Glow Squid beat out the chilly Iceologers and flowery Moobloom to be chosen, and will be added to the game. There's plenty more exciting stuff that we couldn't cram in here, but trust us, update 1.17 is set to be a huge one!



Hands up if you're afraid of The Warden already...



The new telescope will let you see bees from far away!

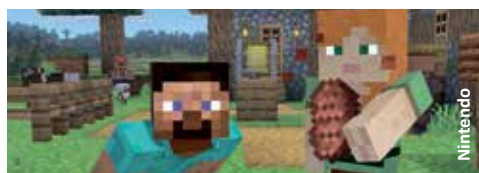
## STEVE IS IN SMASH BROS

ALONG with all the exciting *Minecraft* news above, it's been announced that the characters Steve, Alex, Zombie, and Enderman will be coming to *Super Smash Bros Ultimate* (PEGI 12).

Nintendo's superstar brawler features characters from lots of different gaming worlds, but we can all agree that nobody predicted that Steve from *Minecraft* would be added to the roster!

In fact, it was such a surprise that Twitter momentarily crashed after the reveal trailer went live last week, though it's not confirmed that was the reason.

Over the weekend, *Smash Bros* director Masahiro Sakurai hosted a gameplay demonstration, showing off how Steve and the rest fight in the game.



Believe it or not, this image is actually from *Super Smash Bros Ultimate*

It was obvious that a lot of care had gone into the characters' set of moves. The *Minecraft* characters can mine, craft, place all kinds of blocks (including TNT), and ride in a minecart.

Steve and the gang will be added to *Super Smash Bros Ultimate* from 14 October.

## MARIO KART TOUR DETAILS EMERGE

REMOTE-CONTROLLED, augmented reality *Mario Kart* sure sounds cool, but how does it work?

In a new overview trailer, it was shown how you can put gates down in your house and steer your real-life karts through them in order.

It's recommended that you have 3m by 3.6m of free floor space for the tracks, so this is definitely one for those in bigger homes.

There are four levels of speed to choose from, and in the game there are unlockable karts and costumes for Mario and Luigi.

You can mix up a track on the fly by adding signs and decorations or real-life obstacles to avoid as you race. We're yet to see if ramps or jumps will work, but since these are pretty expensive karts, it might not be worth finding out!



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# DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO LOVES DOLPHINS?

Adopt a dolphin today and you'll be helping to give the amazing dolphins of Scotland's Moray Firth a future



The survival of these intelligent and charismatic dolphins is threatened. This population is just under 200 individuals. Your support will help protect these individuals from threats including oil and gas exploration and production, chemical pollution and fishing.

You will receive lots of stuff including a personalised certificate with a picture of your adoption dolphin, a set of fun stickers and a colourful WDC badge. We'll keep you up-to-date on their daily lives through a great quarterly magazine *SPLASH!*, a monthly e-newsletter and you'll receive an email birthday and Christmas card.

## YOU CAN ADOPT:



### RAINBOW

Rainbow is a friendly sociable female dolphin. She is a brilliant teacher to her sons, showing them how to catch the largest salmon!

OR



### CHARLIE

Charlie is a boisterous teenage dolphin. He enjoys racing around with his buddies Lunar and Flake, getting into all sorts of mischief.

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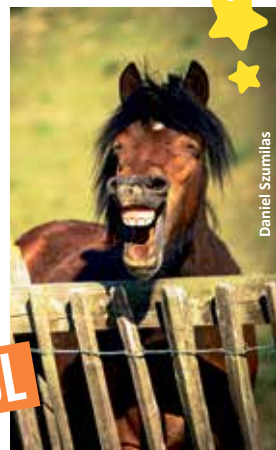
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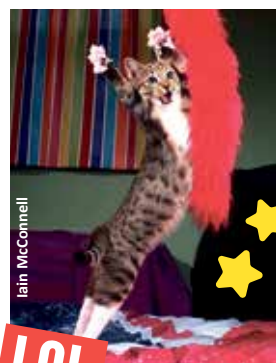
Anne Lidner



Daniel Szumilas



Candice Seelighan



Iain McConnell



Karen Hoglund

## FUNNIEST PET PHOTO AWARDS

THE finalists of the Mars Petcare Comedy Pet Photography Awards have been announced – and they're brilliant!

This year, there were more than 2,000 entries from 81 different countries, featuring everything from hilarious horses and cute cats to ridiculous rabbits and dopey dogs.

As well as spreading joy and laughter, the funny photo awards are helping those animals without a home. Ten percent of the sponsorship money and entry fees will be donated to Blue Cross, a charity whose mission is to end pet homelessness.

The overall winner of the awards is due to be announced on 24 November, where the top image will get £3,000. Here are some of our favourites from the 40 finalists!



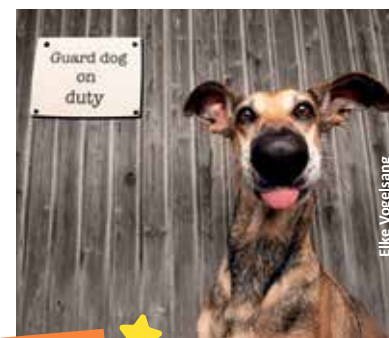
Dean Pollard



Kerstin Ordelt



Teun Veldman



Elke Vogelsang



Alex Class

## FROM POO POO TO PEE PEE

A KEEN cyclist travelled 2,500 miles between some curiously-named locations to raise money for charity.

Ruben Lopez cycled through ten American states, from Poo Poo Point in Washington to Pee Pee Creek in Ohio. However, Ruben is still cycling – his overall goal is to cycle a whopping 5,000 miles, ending his journey at Pee Pee Island off the east coast of Canada.

The clever cyclist knew that picking locations with funny names would spread awareness of his journey and help him to raise money for a good cause. Ruben is cycling to raise money for the Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation (YRRF).

Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the region and is facing a humanitarian crisis. War has left millions in need of aid, and COVID-19 is sweeping through the country. The YRRF says that more than ten million children don't have enough to eat, while 70% don't even have access to clean water.



@rubydramm/twiter

## MAN EATS TOOTHBRUSH

A MAN in India had to have surgery to remove a toothbrush that he somehow swallowed!

Apparently, the unnamed man was brushing the back of his mouth when the toothbrush slipped and disappeared down his throat. Although it didn't feel painful, the man still wisely went to the doctors to get it checked out.

After scans of his throat were done, the toothbrush was nowhere to be found. This led doctors to believe it had already entered his stomach. In the end, the man was treated by surgeons and a quick 30-minute operation saw the toothbrush successfully removed from his stomach.

You might think it's hard to do, but last year a grandma even gulped down her own false teeth, so watch what you're doing, people!

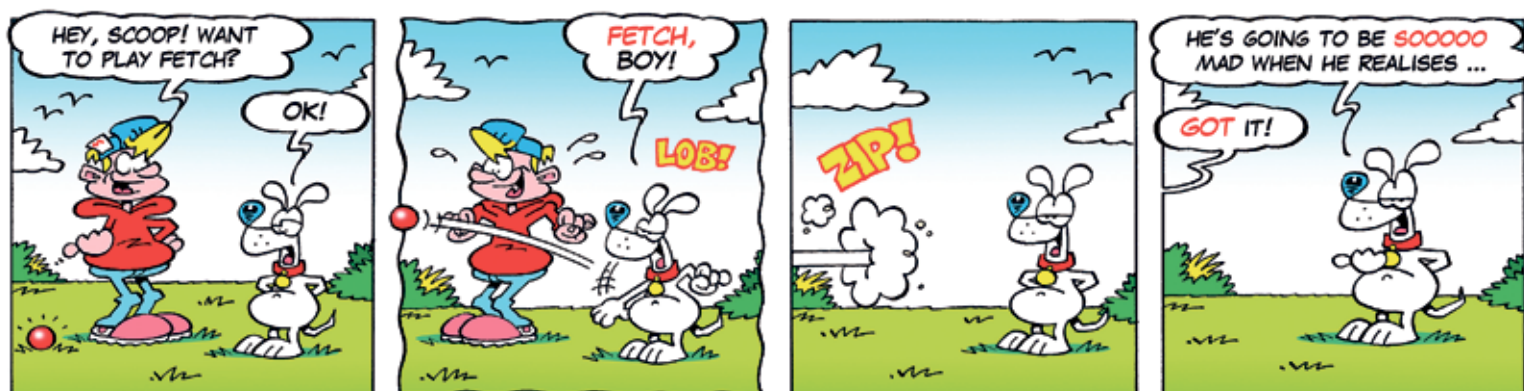


iStock

Be careful when you brush!



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





# WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

## ZIYOU LANG WIRELESS GAMING MOUSE AMAZON.CO.UK £14.99

This silent wireless gaming mouse has a long battery life and is ideal for those long gaming sessions. There are seven function buttons that easily adjust to allow the mouse speed to adapt to different game scenes instantly, while the soft LED colours alternate during play. Available in a range of main colours, all you need to do is plug in and play.



## RAPTOR PRO PLUS HEADSET IWANTONEOFTHOSE.COM £19.99

Get your game face ready and be prepared to take everyone on with these Raptor Pro Plus gaming headphones. Stay in contact with the team by taking advantage of the noise-reducing boom mic, while the noise-isolating headphones will block any distractions and keep you focused on your game. Compatible with PS4, PS4 Pro, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and more.



## NUMSKULL NINTENDO SWITCH STEERING WHEEL NUMSKULL.COM £14.99

Hit the start line with this Nintendo Switch steering wheel. Lock both of your Joy-Cons into this steering wheel table attachment and get ready to race. The realistic design lets you steer like the real thing, making it perfect for motion-control-enabled racing games like Mario Kart.



\*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.

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## WIN! A GREEN SCIENCE KIT



BE a true Earth-friend and learn  
about the environment and  
sustainability with Green Science.

All of the Eco Science kits are made with recycled materials and 80% less single-use plastic, making them the most sustainable range of science kits yet.

Leading the Eco Science collection is Green Science. Plastic-free, this environmentally friendly kit contains more than 15 experiments for you to enjoy. As well as teaching the concept of the 5Rs policy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink and Refuse), Green Science includes experiments, such as showing the effect of acid rain on growing plants, exploring renewable energy sources (by using an old pizza box to learn about solar energy) and teaching different ways to recycle by becoming an eco-astronaut and launching an incredible recycled rocket! There are also other fun activities that aim to educate on the subjects of endangered biodiversity and the effect of plastics on marine ecosystems.

We have 15 Green Science kits up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is not one of the 5Rs?  
a) Reuse b) Recycle c) Rubbish



Available at Argos and  
[amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

Other sets in the Science4you Eco Science range include:  
Wind Power, Solar Robots, Swamp Monsters and Paper (re)cycle

## ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY GREEN

[firstnews.co.uk/competitions](http://firstnews.co.uk/competitions) or see page 19. The closing date is 22 October 2020.



# FINISH OUR STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

A FEW months ago, Cressida Cowell, author and Waterstones Children's Laureate, started a new story in *First News*. Then she handed things over to YOU to write what happened next. For months, the story has continued, written by our readers – and now we need an ending!

## THE STORY SO FAR...

Long ago, a war between spellcasters and evil creatures took place. For years, many of these evil creatures have been locked away... until shapeshifter Typhon helped his father, the Lord of the Beasts, to find the door to an ancient maze that could return these monsters to the world.

The task of stopping these evil beings has fallen on young spellcaster Ferocity and her smoke-producing pet boggart, Guggalugs, who, after surviving a surprise attack from the shapeshifter, have tracked down the Lord of the Beasts with their spellcasting allies: the mysterious Trick, his sister Aida and his mum Ariella. After a battle with the Lord of the Beasts and his army of subjects in a race to the centre of the magical maze, Ferocity discovered that the Lord of the Beasts was her father and he was killed in the battle.

Her mother tried to explain her relationship with the Lord of the Beasts, but Ferocity, focused on her task, pushed her aside to take on Typhon, her half-brother and the only thing between her and the copper piece that could end the world.

We want you to send in the **final part of the story**, wrapping up everything that's happened so far in the adventure. Make sure you read the entire story before you start writing!

You can submit up to 500 words by email at [newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk), popping **Story** into the subject line, or at [first.news/cressidacowell](https://first.news/cressidacowell).

You have one more week for this one – and we'll be deciding who writes the final part on **Friday 16 October**.



READ THE WHOLE STORY AT  
[FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL](https://first.news/cressidacowell)



## 100 GREAT BLACK BRITONS

A NEW book is being published to honour the achievements of key black British individuals throughout history.

*100 Great Black Britons* names and details the contributions that black people have made in the UK across the last 400 years.

People such as Idris Elba, Lewis Hamilton and Stormzy have made the list – based on nominations from the public, from which a panel of experts decided on the final 100.

The 100 Great Black Britons campaign began in 2003, to promote the achievements of black people in the UK. Since then, people have worked tirelessly to promote those accomplishments up and down the country.

The campaign is now raising money to have a copy of the book sent to every secondary school in the UK, and hosting a competition for kids under 16 to create a project based on one of the 100 Great Black Britons.

To find out more about the book and to learn more about those on the list, head to

[www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk](https://www.100greatblackbritons.co.uk).



Lewis Hamilton is on the list of 100 Great Black Britons

## National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



### MEET Alex T Smith and Claude the extraordinary dog!

Author of the week in the Virtual School Library is creator of the Claude series, Alex T Smith!

Alex's recommended reads are:

- *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* by Judith Kerr
- *Eloise* by Kay Thompson and Hilary Knight
- *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love

You can read *Claude in the City* and *Claude Best in Show* for FREE, watch a video to learn how to draw Claude and download free colouring, drawing and writing activities!

Pay a visit to [virtuallibrary.org.uk](https://virtuallibrary.org.uk) to discover more about Alex and the extraordinary dog, Claude!



Virtual School Library



FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT [WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK](https://WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK)

## YOUR READS!

### GIRL ONLINE ZOE SUGG

reviewed by Martha Bradburn, aged 11

The book is about a girl called Penny, who has a best friend called Elliot. Her mum organises parties, weddings and birthdays, but someone has asked her to do a wedding in New York. Penny doesn't want to go, but when she arrives she meets her true love, Noah, a cute American boy. Soon Penny finds out that Noah has a secret and it's all over Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

The book is very dramatic and has lots of cliffhangers at the end of the chapters. There is also lots of dialogue, speech and text messages from people – this is what makes the book interesting to me.

There isn't anything about this book that I disliked. I think it's a great book.



## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

LOOKING for something to do? Send us a book review! Whether you've read a book recently that you desperately want to tell people about, or have read one that you think others should avoid – write us a review!

We'll need around 100 words on a book you've been reading and a picture of yourself (with parents' permission!) sent to [bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto:bookreviews@firstnews.co.uk).





# MACMILLAN FUNDRAISING

by The Meads Primary School, Luton

**WE have been busy raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, our school reluctantly had to shelve our annual Macmillan coffee morning fundraiser.

However, this did not stop everyone from raising money for this fantastic charity. We were all asked to dress in green for the day and to bring in a £1 contribution.

As well as this, money was raised through holding a raffle that was open to the whole school community (the prize was a hamper full of green goodies) and a sweepstake among the staff to win an amazing home-baked cake!

The highlight of the day, however, was when we all had the opportunity to throw spoons full of mushy peas at our head teacher Mr Jenkins and deputy head teacher Mr Warren. After a couple of hours of fun and laughter, the school leaders were completely covered in the green goo.

Everyone had a wonderful time and we managed to raise more than £500 for Macmillan.



Covered in mushy peas!

SCHOOL NEWS

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

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

Email your report (including pictures) to [yournews@firstnews.co.uk](mailto: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.

## REPORTING WINNERS

by pupils from West Park Primary School

**WE have achieved global success, winning first prize in the international Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE) competition.**

YRE's Litter Less Campaign is an international journalism scheme run in Wales by Keep Wales Tidy on behalf of FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). It empowers young people to take a stand in the global fight against litter, through writing, photography and film.

Year 6 students from our school won the written article competition in the 11-14 category after investigating how Porthcawl is trying to solve its plastic problem.

We interviewed local businesses, politicians and residents, and then presented our work to the international YRE jury.

We couldn't believe it when we heard that we had won, especially as more than 275,000 students from 45 countries entered the competition, submitting over 16,000 entries!



Students from West Park Primary School visiting Pantri Box, a plastic-free and zero-waste shop in Porthcawl

SCHOOL NEWS

## HAIR CHOP

by Mariam and Saffia Cader

**MY sister Saffia and I cut our hair recently to donate to an eco charity called Matter of Trust.**

We got the idea in July after a cargo ship got caught in a coral reef, and spilled 1,000 tonnes of oil into the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Mauritius, where our extended family lives.

Matter of Trust established the Clean Wave programme to promote large-scale waste fibre recycling using hair from salons, fur from pet groomers, fleece and feathers from farmers and even laundry lint.

Hair gets coated by the oil and is a natural way to help to soak it up out of the water. The hair is used to make 'booms', which are like barriers to keep the oil away from the shore.

Lots of unique and endangered animals, such as lizards, have been affected by the spill. The Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey is working to help protect them from extinction – which is what happened to the Dodo.

We are going to start fundraising to help them too.

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Mariam and Saffia with their hair ready to donate

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# **NEED TO KNOW!**

## **YOUR ONLINE AD CHOICES**

**MediaSmart**  
Education from the Advertising Industry

**HAVE** you ever wondered why so many of your favourite online platforms are free – whether it's an app, a website or search engine? Well, it's quite likely that the platform is able to offer this because they make money by selling some of its online space to companies for advertising. This is called a value exchange.

### **WHAT IS INTEREST-BASED ADVERTISING?**

Companies and brands want to find the most relevant audience to sell their products or services to. That might just be you!

One of the ways they do this is through interest-based advertising. You might also have

heard people talk about 'personalised adverts'. That's the same thing.

Today, online or digital advertising is where businesses spend the biggest chunk of their budgets – bigger even than TV spend!

### **IS INTEREST-BASED ADVERTISING A GOOD THING?**

Well, it can be pretty useful – maybe to help you find something you've been looking for online or to find out about new things relevant to your interests.


But it can sometimes get a bit annoying, right? Ever searched for something online, bought it and then had ads still popping up for it when you go online?

### **WHY DOES IT EXIST?**

One of the reasons digital advertising is so appealing to advertisers is because it is easier to reach the right audience.

Instead of spending their money telling all 66m people in the UK about their shiny new thing, they can tell just those who seem most likely to buy. They might look for people of a certain age or with specific interests like sports, travel or hobbies.

### **CAN I CONTROL WHAT ADVERTS I SEE ONLINE?**

A lot of the time you can. Look for the **AdChoices icon** embedded in or around adverts and set your personal preferences. The **AdChoices icon** looks like this! → 

You can find out a bit more by going to the **YourOnlineChoices** website run by the EDAA (in plain English that stands for the European Interactive Digital Advertising Alliance).

**edaa**  
EUROPEAN  
INTERACTIVE  
DIGITAL  
ADVERTISING  
ALLIANCE



### **GET INQUISITIVE!**

Next time you pick up or log onto a device, see if you can spot any online adverts that you think have been directed specifically to you because of your interests.

On average, someone in the UK sees 6,000-10,000 ads a day, so it shouldn't take you long!

Can you work out why they are trying to sell something to you? Is it because you are of a certain age, live in a particular area or have searched for something similar on the internet?



### **TEST THE GROWN-UPS!**

Ever feel like you know more about the online world than some of the adults around you? We're all living in a fast-evolving digital world and even parents and teachers can find it hard to keep up. Ask them if they know what interest-based advertising is and how it can be managed online.

If you, or they, want to find out a bit more, go to [www.mediasmart.uk.com/secondary-resources](http://www.mediasmart.uk.com/secondary-resources)

Find out more by watching our **three-minute animated film** at [mediasmart.uk.com/manage-your-online-advert-experience](http://mediasmart.uk.com/manage-your-online-advert-experience)

Teachers can also download the **free PSHE educational resource** on 'How to manage your online advert experience', created by Media Smart, from the same place.



# SPORT IN NUMBERS

13

wins from 13 fights is British boxer Chantelle Cameron's impressive tally since turning professional.

Her latest victory was over Brazilian fighter Adriana Dos Santos Araújo – nicknamed the Pitbull. Victory saw Chantelle add world champion to her list of achievements, as she collected the WBC super-lightweight title.



Getty

183

was Aaron Rai's Official World Golf Ranking at the start of the Scottish Open. The 25-year-old from

Wolverhampton played brilliantly on the final day to force a play-off with Tommy Fleetwood, ranked 166 places higher. Aaron won on the first play-off hole and is in the world top 100 for the first time.



Getty

4

marathons in a row have been won by Kenya's Brigid Kosgei (below), after she took the 2020 London

Marathon women's title. She finished three minutes and three seconds ahead of second-placed Sara Hall. The men's race was won by Shura Kitata of Ethiopia, who finished in two hours five minutes and 41 seconds.



Getty

## GOALS GALORE



Villa's Jack Grealish scored two goals and provided assists for another three

**WHAT'S** the difference between the 2020-21 Premier League season and a laundry? You're not likely to see many clean sheets in the Premier League...

The latest Premier League season is less than a month old, but it's already staking a claim to be the most unpredictable and exciting one since the league began in 1992. Only 38 games have been played so far, but 144 goals have been scored – that's close to four goals every match on average! But some games are enjoying more net-busting action than others.

In the latest set of matches, Manchester United took on Tottenham Hotspur. The Red Devils took an early lead in the second minute with a Bruno Fernandes penalty. Spurs replied with two goals, before United's Anthony Martial was sent off.

Spurs scored four more times to make the result a remarkable 6-1. "It is the worst day of my career as

Manchester United manager," said Ole Gunnar Solskjær after the game.

Another surprising result followed this match, as Aston Villa played defending champions Liverpool. The Reds had won their first three games of the season, but found themselves 2-0 down after 22 minutes. Mo Salah scored twice, but Villa were in superb form and won the game 7-2. "We lost the plot," explained Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp later.

And although red isn't a lucky colour for many, it isn't easy being green at the moment, either – Arsenal have axed their mascot, Gunnersaurus, to cut down on costs. Gunners fan Jerry Quy dressed up as the dinosaur for 27 years.

Gunnersaurus

Spurs' Harry Kane



Getty

## TEEN TENNIS TRIUMPHS

**THIS** year's French Open has seen some fantastic tennis – but one of the most startling games was completed in just over an hour!

Simona Halep, winner of 22 career titles, was the tournament's top seed. The Romanian lived up to her billing, not dropping a set in the first three rounds. Her fourth round match was against Polish teenager Iga Świątek, who lost to Simona when they played last year, only managing to win one game. This year, the roles were reversed. Iga took just 24 minutes to take the first set and her powerful play saw her wrap up the match 6-1, 6-2. This ended Simona's 17-match winning streak and gave Iga her first ever place in a Grand Slam quarter-final.

Another seed was defeated by a teenager in the men's competition. Nineteen-year-old Jannik Sinner of Italy beat sixth seed Alexander Zverev of Germany in four sets.

Iga Świątek (right) and Jannik Sinner (below) in action at the French Open



Getty



Getty