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CHILDREN'S
NEWSPAPER
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READERS!

REVIEW OF THE YEAR **SPECIAL EDITION**



Issue 758 £2.25 25 – 31 December 2020

First News



HELPING THE UK GROW

NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS



HUMAN
AND ANIMAL
HEROES



2020

THE YEAR THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

We remember the heroes, the highs and the
lows of a year that will go down in history



AMAZING
PICTURES!



HOPEFUL
STORIES



THE YEAR
OF **BLM**



SPORTING
ICONS



Hi! We are the 44 Cats. We are four super-friendly
kittens who know there's nothing better than friendship.

44 Cats is on Pop TV every morning seven days a week.
It's also available on Nick Toons, Netflix and YouTube.

WIN! A party for 20 with the coolest cats around!
Turn to the back of your paper to find out more!



2. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

JANUARY



WOW, January seems such a long time ago now! Back then, COVID-19 wasn't even being talked about. Instead, everyone was focused on something completely different...

THE **BIG**
STORY!

★ BRITAIN EXITS THE EU



AFTER years of debate following the 2016 EU Referendum, the UK finally officially left the European Union on 31 January... sort of.

Rather than fully leave the European Union, the UK entered a 'transition period', where the Government could work out the details of any future relationship.

During this period, the UK didn't have any MEPs in the European Parliament. This meant that the UK couldn't have any say in Europe's rules and laws, but still had to stick to them, at least until the end of the transition period – 31 December 2020.

The event was marked by a televised speech from Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and lots of Brexit supporters came together

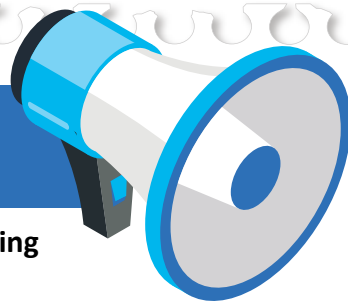
to celebrate in Trafalgar Square.

Three million commemorative 50p Brexit coins bearing the date "31 January" and the inscription: "Peace, prosperity and friendship with all nations" were minted, and entered circulation after the day.

Although Brexit had been the main story in the news for years, it was soon to be eclipsed for almost all of 2020 by the new coronavirus. But whenever Brexit did crop up, it was very clear that half the UK was still unhappy about it, and that negotiations with the EU weren't going well.

TALKING POINTS

HERE are a couple of things we were all talking about back in January.



END OF SATURDAY JOBS?

IN January, a report was released that suggested that the Saturday job is dying out, as teen employment fell by 48% over the last 20 years. The report by the Resolution Foundation said that young people were prioritising learning over earning. We asked you whether you'd like a Saturday job, and 63% said yes!



GOOD NEWS FOR WOODLANDS

GOOD news arrived in January – thanks to 20th century forestry and rewilding. The Government announced that 22 million trees had been planted across the country since 2010. Today, as in the Middle Ages, 13% of the UK is woodland, compared to just 8% a hundred years ago.



HARRY AND MEGHAN MAKE MOVES

EVEN with all of the huge events going on in the world, the one that got everyone talking back in January involved a couple who wanted to change jobs and move house.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, Harry and Meghan, said that they wanted to step back from their roles as senior members of the royal family and to become financially independent.

The news was covered on the front page of almost every newspaper in the country!



GOOD MONTH FOR PENGUINS

SCIENTISTS studying footage from remote cameras discovered a new colony of Magellanic penguins on an island off Argentina's coast. The population of the species had been decreasing, so the discovery was welcome news.



OUR FAVE PIC



LIGHTNING struck, as a column of ash surrounded the crater of the erupting Taal volcano. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised alerts, warning of an imminent explosive eruption. Fortunately, it never reached that point.

ANIMALS OF THE MONTH: Missy and Taz



MEET Missy and Taz, a pair of specially trained detection dogs who helped locate koalas that had been left stranded by the Australian bushfires.

The springer spaniels sniffed out koala poo in the burnt forest, then barked to alert wildlife rescuers to their location. What good dogs!

SPORTING MOMENT OF THE MONTH:



SUPER SERGIO

In January, Sergio Agüero officially became the most successful foreign goalscorer in Premier League history. Manchester City's Argentinian superstar scored three goals in a 6-1 thrashing of Aston Villa, taking his total to 177. This made him the highest scoring overseas player since the Premier League was formed in 1992.

REMEMBER THIS?



Beyoncé to aisle three

Beyoncé's Adidas x Ivy Park collection included some purple and orange items, which reminded a lot of people of the uniform that Sainsbury's staff wear. Sainsbury's got in on the jokes, tweeting "#Sainsbey".

BAD MONTH FOR ONTARIO

MILLIONS of residents in the Canadian state of Ontario received a government alert on their phones, warning of an "incident" at a nuclear power plant. After some brief confusion and panic, another alert admitted that it had been a mistake during a training exercise.



AUSTRALIA'S BUSHFIRES



MASSIVE wildfires spread across Australia through January. Images taken during the ongoing wildfire crisis were projected onto the 'sails' of the Sydney Opera House to show support for communities affected by the fires and the firefighters who were defending them.

4. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

FEBRUARY

IN February, we first began reporting on the spread of the new coronavirus, but it wasn't dominating the headlines quite yet. Instead, we were focused on a different crisis.



THE **BIG** STORY!

TAKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

IN February, three of our front pages were about the climate crisis and what was being done to fight it.

At the beginning of the month, Sir David Attenborough and Prime Minister Boris Johnson joined schoolchildren at the Science Museum to announce the UK Year of Climate Action.

Just weeks later, the UK faced record floods, caused by Storm Dennis.

The flooding was so bad that it even trapped a fire engine!

Following the floods, the Met Office purchased a new £1.2 billion supercomputer, the world's most

advanced computer dedicated to weather and climate, giving earlier, more accurate warnings of severe weather.

A massive climate march then took place on Bristol's College Green, which was attended by none other than Greta Thunberg (left).

One of the organisers of the group Bristol Youth Strike 4 Climate, Milly Sibson, 17, said: "We are all just so excited – everyone is so excited about the thought of hearing her talk."

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH: The rare pink manta ray



THE world's only pink manta ray was snapped swimming off the Great Barrier Reef in Australia back in February.

The colourful underwater creature was spotted by photographer Kristian Laine.

It's thought this ray's pink colouring could be due to a genetic mutation that affects the colour of its melanin, a skin pigment (a substance that gives colour to something).

INSECTS ON THE MENU?



A STUDY revealed that schoolchildren are "open to eating insects as part of their daily school meals."

Rather than just add a cricket sandwich to the school dinner menu and see what happened, the researchers examined how young people felt about eating insects, and taught them about food sustainability and the health benefits of eating insects.

They found that by offering young people a choice as to whether they wanted to eat insect-based food, children were more open to trying it and found that they liked it.

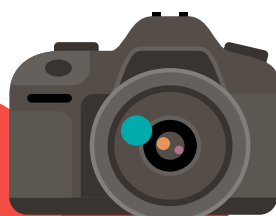
SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: THE BEST OF THE BRIT AWARDS 2020

THE BRITs was a huge night for the British music industry.

Stormzy won the award for British Male Solo Artist and had indoor rain for his performance of *Rainfall*. Lewis Capaldi (below) was the big winner, taking home awards for Best New Artist and Song of The Year for *Someone You Loved*. Billie Eilish won the award for International Female Artist and performed the new James Bond theme song, *No Time To Die*.

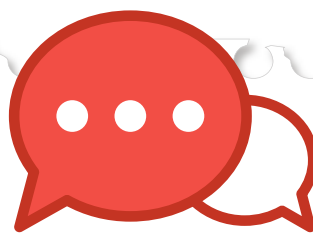


OUR FAVE PIC



annabelfields/Facebook

A CAT who was 'banned' from his local Tesco kept returning to the store in defiance. The ginger tom called Pumpkin loved to visit his local store in Norwich and racked up thousands of Facebook followers. Tesco said that "a food store isn't the best place for a cat", but admitted that Pumpkin would likely continue to visit.



TALKING POINTS

HERE are a couple of things we were all talking about in February.



Getty

ANYBODY OUT THERE?

IN February, the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute announced a partnership with the Very Large Array (VLA) in New Mexico. SETI hoped to develop a system that would give it access to all the data gathered by the VLA, so that experts can search for signs of alien life on a larger scale than ever before.

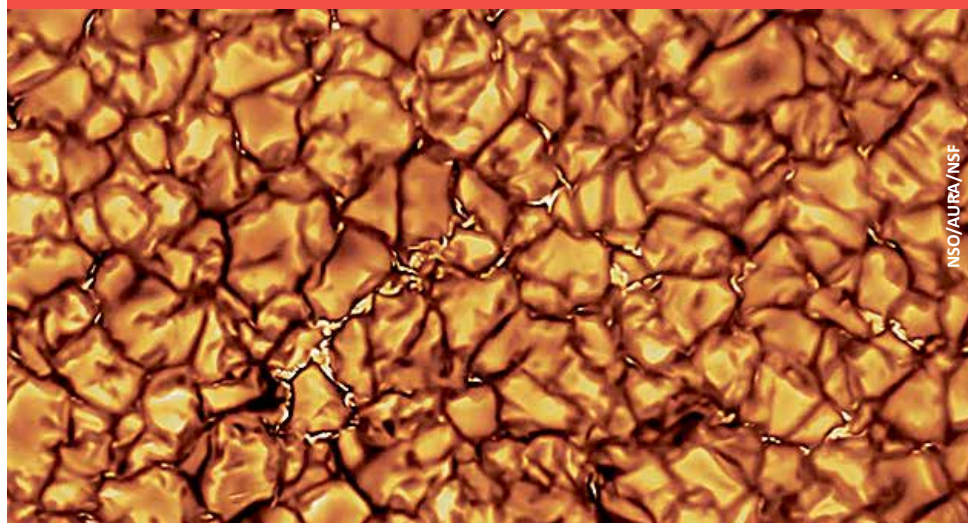
A SURGICAL PERFORMANCE

IF the idea of waking up during surgery seems a bit scary, look away now. Not only was musician Dagmar Turner awake while she had a brain tumour removed, she was sitting up and playing the violin! The surgery was a success, and the only difficulty that the surgeons faced was avoiding being hit by the bow as Dagmar played!



Kings College London

SUNNY SCIENCE



NSO/AURA/NSF

IN February, we saw the first image of the sun from Hawaii's Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope, which sits on top of a mountain called Haleakalā, meaning 'the house of the sun'. Each of the cells in the image is about three times the size of the UK. The telescope will help us to learn more about the sun's magnetic field, and how eruptions on its surface can affect electronics on Earth.

6. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

MARCH



IN March the world realised just how much of a threat COVID-19 was, and the UK and many other countries went into lockdown.

THE BIG STORY!

THE UK GOES INTO LOCKDOWN



Getty

IN March, every one of our front pages was about COVID-19, as scientists and doctors started the fight against the new coronavirus.

At the beginning of the month, cases in the UK were quite low. We were all encouraged to wash our hands more often (while singing Happy Birthday twice) and to avoid shaking hands with people or touching our faces too much.

As the month progressed, cases started to rise, and on 18 March schools in the UK were told to close to everyone except for the children of key workers. These included people who worked in supermarkets, teachers and, of course, the emergency services. A few days later on 23 March, Prime

Minister Boris Johnson told the country to stay at home. All non-essential businesses were closed, people were told to work from home and to only leave their homes to buy food or medicine and to exercise once a day. Households were banned from mixing, while vulnerable people and the elderly were asked to 'shield' and stay at home for 12 weeks.

The news led to panic buying, with shortages of pasta, toilet roll and other essential goods in supermarkets across the country.

OUR FAVE PIC



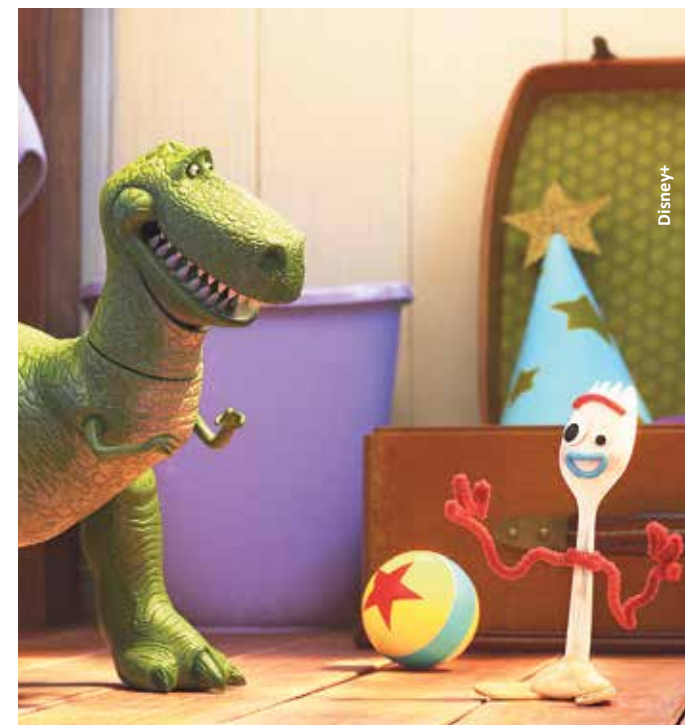
goldenretriever Instagram

WHAT do you get if you cross a puppy with a unicorn? One of the cutest pictures of 2020, that's what. Rae the golden retriever lost one ear during a difficult birth, and her other ear gradually moved to the centre of her head as she grew up. She may only have one ear, but she now has 234,000 followers on Instagram!

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: DISNEY+ LAUNCHED IN THE UK

THE brand-new streaming service launched in March, but little did we know just how much TV we would be watching in 2020!

The streaming service launched with new shows like the Star Wars spin-off *The Mandalorian* and *Forky Asks A Question* (below). There were also new Disney films and episodes of classic Disney Channel shows like *Hannah Montana*, which starred a young Miley Cyrus.



Disney+



Getty

SPORTING MOMENT OF THE MONTH: THE OLYMPICS ARE POSTPONED

AFTER weeks of speculation, the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics were officially postponed when Japan's then prime minister, Shinzō Abe, asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to delay the event until 2021. The event will still be called Tokyo 2020, despite taking place in a different year. The International Paralympic Committee then announced that the Paralympics would also be pushed back to summer 2021.

SPACE LETTUCE TASTES GOOD!



IN March, NASA revealed that astronauts had been growing lettuce on the International Space Station and that it was tasty and nutritious.

The lettuce was grown in sealed units containing ceramic soil under LED lighting, with astronauts watering them through a tube. The end result was vegetables that were similar to Earth-grown lettuces. In some trials, they were even richer in nutrients such as potassium, sodium, phosphorus, sulphur and zinc.

The ability of astronauts to grow food in space is good news for future long space missions.



NASA

THE EARTH'S SECOND MOON



Catalina Sky Survey

WHEN scientists discovered that the Earth actually had two moons, it really blew our minds. The new mini-moon – named 2020CD3 (CD3 for short) – is pretty tiny, at between 1.9m and 3.5m in diameter, and has an unusual orbit, which is why it hadn't been spotted until this year. It orbits Earth once every 47 days, but goes way out past the actual moon. It's thought that the mini-moon is an asteroid that's been captured by Earth's gravity.

GOOD MONTH FOR KEEPING FIT

JOE Wicks appointed himself the nation's PE teacher in this month, when he launched his online PE lessons. Hundreds of thousands of people tuned in to PE With Joe, eventually earning Joe an MBE from the Queen!



Getty



istock

BAD MONTH FOR KOALAS

A study commissioned by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) found that at least 5,000 koalas died in Australia's bush fires – around 12% of the koalas in New South Wales. The IFAW called for new measures to protect koalas.

8. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

APRIL

THIS month, the whole of the UK was in lockdown, but that didn't stop us showing our love for the NHS...



THE **BIG**
STORY!

WE

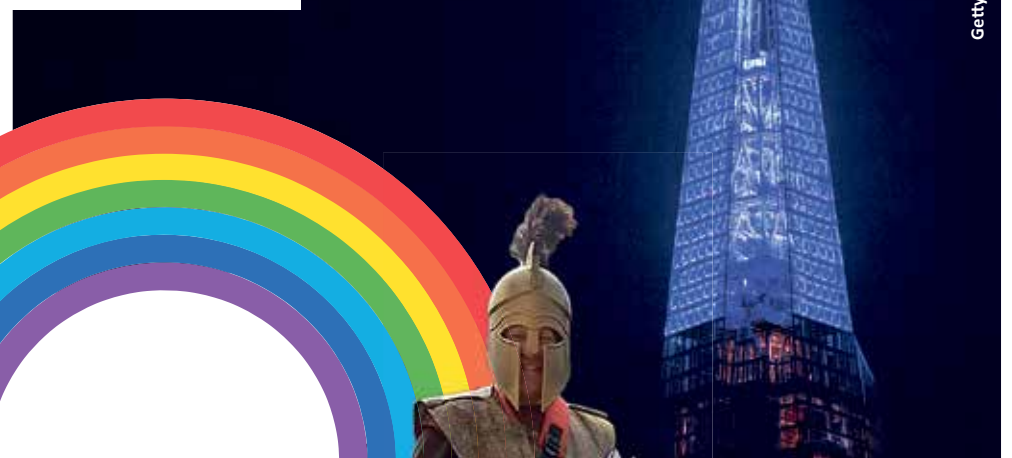


THE NHS!



EVERY Thursday evening in April, people took to their doorsteps and gardens to show their appreciation for the hard-working NHS.

As well as all the clapping, rainbows appeared in windows, plus buildings around the UK, including The Shard in London (below right), were lit in blue – the colour of the NHS logo. Those were just some of the ways that people showed support for NHS workers. The royal family also got involved, sharing a video of the children of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Charlotte and Princes George and Louis, clapping along. Instead of just being a one-off, the clapping happened every Thursday until the end of May.



OUR
FAVE
PICS



ONE postman went above and beyond to bring a bit of cheer to local residents during the coronavirus lockdown. Jon Matson, 39, from West Boldon, dressed up in different outfits when he did his rounds. Jon's colourful outfits included a cheerleader, a gladiator and Little Bo Peep!



HERO OF THE MONTH: THE TEACHER WHO DELIVERED FOOD

TEACHER Zane Powles was hailed as a hero for walking five miles every day to make sure disadvantaged kids got a proper lunch during the lockdown.

Every morning, the assistant head teacher at Western Primary School in Grimsby delivered 78 packed lunches to children who got free school meals. His efforts meant that he would be awarded an MBE later in the year.

BORIS GOT COVID



PRIME Minister Boris Johnson was diagnosed with COVID-19 this month.

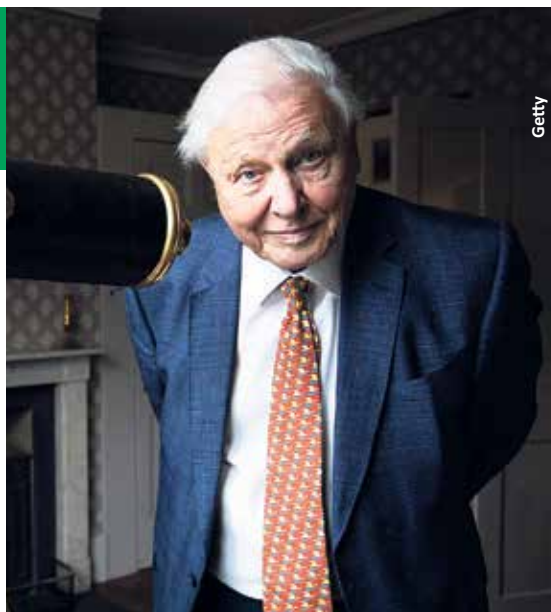
After several days in intensive care he was discharged to recover at his official country residence, Chequers. Mr Johnson said that "the NHS has saved my life, no question" and that it "could've gone either way".

In a video posted on the PM's official Twitter account, he named several nurses whose care helped him through his illness, including two in particular from New Zealand and Portugal.

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: CELEBRITY TEACHERS

THANKS to a new learning service from the BBC, we got Spanish lessons from footballer Sergio Agüero, history from Danny Dyer and music from Mabel.

The BBC recruited a whole host of starry names to liven up its Bitesize Daily schedule. Other well-known faces who took part were Professor Brian Cox, Oti Mabuse, Anita Rani, current Doctor Jodie Whittaker, Liam Payne and David Attenborough (right).



THIS FROG WANTED A FRIEND

FRIEND of the Sea and Friend of the Earth launched a campaign in April to help save a rare frog species that can only be found in one lake in Peru.

The campaign called on the Peruvian government to offer more protection for the Titicaca water frog, which lives exclusively in Lake Titicaca. It is the largest lake in South America and sits 3,810m above sea level in the Andes Mountains.

GOOD MONTH FOR XHERDAN THE CAT

XHERDAN the sphinx cat became an internet sensation when his owner started posting pics of him on Instagram. He may look grumpy, but according to his owner, Sandra Filippi, he's a real sweetie who loves to cuddle.



BAD MONTH FOR TIGERS

A TIGER at the Bronx Zoo in New York tested positive for COVID-19. Nadia, a four-year-old Malayan tiger, developed a dry cough. She went on to make a full recovery.

10. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

MAY

MAY was all about homeschooling, being inspired and socially-distanced street parties.



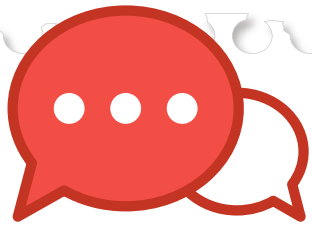
LOCKDOWN DOESN'T STOP VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

THE **BIG** STORY!

THE country may have been in lockdown, but that didn't stop us honouring 75 years since the end of World War Two.

People decorated the outside of their houses with red, white and blue bunting, 'stay-at-home street parties' took place and the Red Arrows performed a flypast over Buckingham Palace on 8 May.

VE Day – Victory in Europe Day – was on 8 May 1945 and was the day the Allied forces announced the surrender of Germany, which ended the Second World War in Europe.



TALKING POINTS

THESE two people were in the news a lot in 2020, but May probably wasn't their best month...

DONALD TRUMP'S DEADLY DISINFECTANT BLUNDER

DONALD Trump angered doctors when he wrongly suggested that disinfectant could cure COVID-19. During a White House press briefing, he said: "And then I see the disinfectant, where it knocks it out in a minute. One minute! And is there a way we can do something like that, by injection inside or almost a cleaning?" Medical experts quickly warned people not to try this under any circumstances, as disinfectants are toxic and potentially deadly.

DOMINIC CUMMINGS' TRIP

DOMINIC Cummings, adviser to the prime minister, sparked controversy when it was revealed this month that he had driven 260 miles from London to Durham with his wife and child during a time that the PM was telling everyone to "stay at home" because of COVID-19. He said he made the journey to be near his parents, as his wife was ill and he worried he'd need emergency childcare if he too became sick. Despite a huge backlash, Mr Cummings kept his job.



OUR NEW HEROES

AFTER being inspired by Captain Tom Moore, disabled six-year-old Frank Mills from Bristol walked ten metres a day for the NHS – and raised over £300,000.

Frank was born with spina bifida and only started walking with a frame 18 months before his challenge. He originally thought he'd raise £99! Captain Tom's efforts to walk round his garden captured our hearts, and he raised £33m for the NHS, which led to him being knighted by the Queen.



VACCINE TRIALS BEGAN

THIS month saw the first human trials for the University of Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine. Around 1,100 people took part in the first trial phase, to see if people could be protected against the coronavirus.

11. MAY

OUR
FAVE
PIC



@banksy/Instagram

A NEW creation called *Game Changer* by mysterious street artist Banksy appeared at Southampton General Hospital in May, paying tribute to the heroic work of NHS staff during the coronavirus pandemic.

MAY'S FUNNY MOMENTS

AFTER weeks in lockdown, we all started to make our own fun this month...



Bin Isolation Outing/Facebook

BIN STYLE

When the only time you leave the house is to put the bins out, you've got to make it special! The new craze of people dressing up to take out the trash went viral thanks to a Facebook page from Australia called Bin Isolation Outing.

MUSHROOM CANOE

When student Katy Ayers was asked to think up a way to fight climate change, she started looking up different uses for mushrooms – and made a whole canoe out of them!



Katy Ayers



Nathalie Moermans

CARDBOARD CAR

One family in Belgium were so desperate for a McDonald's that when the drive-through reopened, they made their own car out of cardboard so they could get a burger, because they didn't have a real car!

FirstNews • Issue 758 • 25 – 31 December 2020

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: STARS SANG FOR DISNEY

CELEBRITY Disney fans including Ariana Grande teamed up to record their favourite Disney songs as part of *The Disney Family Singalong for Disney+*.

Ariana sang *I Won't Say I'm In Love* from *Hercules*, Demi Lovato and Michael Bublé performed *A Dream is A Wish Your Heart Makes* from *Cinderella* and the original *High School Musical* cast reunited to sing *We're All In This Together*.



Disney+

GIRL DON'T BE PROUD IT'S OKAY YOU'RE IN LOVE

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH: Bear the dog



IFAW

MEET Bear, the rescue dog who saved more than 100 injured koalas in Australia.

Hundreds of koalas were at risk of dying, after wildfires destroyed vast parts of their habitat. But Bear was there to help! The five-year-old Australian koolie, who was abandoned as a pet, works with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and managed to sniff out 152 injured koalas in the bush.

12. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

JUNE



JUNE was the month when everything started to get a little bit back to normal in the UK, as lockdown restrictions began to ease. But it was also a month when some important conversations started, after the death of a man called George Floyd.

THE BIG STORY!



A Black Lives Matter protest in Trafalgar Square in London

BLM PROTESTS ALL AROUND THE WORLD

PROTESTS took place in many countries, following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, USA, after he was held down by police officers.

During his arrest, George Floyd, a black man, died after white police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck. The officer has since been charged with second-degree murder, while three other police officers involved in the arrest were charged with aiding and abetting [encouraging] murder.

Protests against police violence and racial hatred then began in Minneapolis, before quickly spreading across the world, as people took to the streets to campaign against the police using unnecessary force against black people in the US and elsewhere.

There were demonstrations all around the world, including in UK cities such as London, Cardiff and Manchester. Celebrities including Ariana Grande and Halsey lent their voices to protests in the United States too.

The majority of the protesters walked peacefully, carrying Black Lives Matter signs and calling for justice. But in some parts of the US, demonstrations became violent and some people looted shops and set fire to buildings.

George Floyd's death kick-started changes all over the world, including statues and monuments of people with links to slavery being torn down. Many companies expressed solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, while some police departments started making changes, including banning the holding of suspects by the neck, and more people began speaking out about their experiences of racism and discrimination.

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: ANT AND DEC HOSTED A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY!

TV presenters Ant and Dec popped up in a special virtual assembly aimed at addressing young people's fears over the coronavirus.

The event was part of the NSPCC's Speak Out Stay Safe programme of assemblies. The famous pair asked Minister for Children and Families Vicky Ford questions from primary school pupils about things like home learning, social distancing and coronavirus testing.



NSPCC/YouTube

OUR FAVE PIC



BLACK Lives Matter protester Patrick Hutchinson carries a man, who was protesting against the Black Lives Matter movement, to safety during demonstrations near London's Waterloo station.

13. JUNE

FirstNews • Issue 758 • 25 – 31 December 2020

SPORTING MOMENT OF THE MONTH: WE GOT LIVE SPORT BACK!



ONE of the many restrictions that were eased this month meant sport could return.

The football authorities agreed to restart England's Premier League and the Championship, after taking various safety precautions and testing players and staff for COVID-19. The Premier League restarted on Wednesday 17 June, with 20 more games being played over the following week. The Championship kicked off on 20 June. Golf returned, with American Daniel Berger winning the Charles Schwab Challenge, which was the first event of the re-started PGA Tour.



SCHOOLS REOPENED

AROUND a million children returned to schools across England this month, for the first time since the coronavirus lockdown began in March.

It was the start of the Government's slow reopening of schools, with pupils in nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 returning to classes from 1 June. School looked a bit different, however, with temperature checks, lots of handwashing and social distancing, but many teachers and pupils were delighted to be reunited.



REMEMBER THIS?

Man marries his cat

A MAN in California raised money for an animal shelter by marrying his cat.

Scott Perry adopted his cat Olivia from the Best Friends Animals Society in Los Angeles five years ago. The duo are such a purrfect pair that Scott decided to hold a wedding with Olivia, to help raise awareness and money for the shelter. He said he wanted to help other animals during the lockdown.



HERO

OF THE MONTH

THANKS to Manchester United star Marcus Rashford, more than a million children in England didn't go hungry over the summer.

The footballer had successfully campaigned to get the Government to extend free school meal vouchers for 1.3 million children in England.



GRRREAT NEWS!

AFTER months of struggling, zoos in the UK began to open again in June.

Many zoos and wildlife parks were in danger of closing for good after being forced to stay shut, so were thrilled to welcome visitors back.

14. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

JULY

IT was a summer like no other, when we finally got to see our friends again (but only outside), a rapper wanted to be president of America and people clapped once more for the NHS's birthday.



THE BIG STORY!



SAVING THE PLANET



IN July, one of the top energy experts in the world warned we only had six months to change the course of the climate crisis.

Back in the summer, Fatih Birol, the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), revealed that the coronavirus lockdown led to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions across the world. This was great news, but he warned that we needed to keep going.

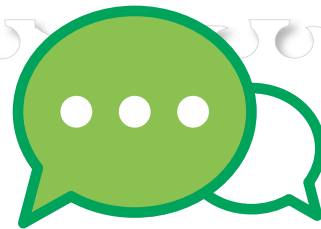
Emissions plunged by a global average of 17% in April, the sharpest drop in carbon output since records began. In the UK, the decline was about 31%. But, levels quickly started to bounce back.

Fatih Birol said at the time: "The next three years will determine the course of the next 30 years and beyond. If emissions rebound, it is very difficult to see how they will be brought down in future."

The IEA urged governments to have green recovery packages for life after lockdown, with wind and solar power being a top priority. At the end of July, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that £350 million was being made available to cut emissions in heavy industry and help the economy to recover from the effects of the pandemic.



istock



TALKING POINTS

SCHOOLS and balloons got our attention back in July.

MINECRAFT SCHOOLS

Many schools had to cancel open days and transition days for new students due to COVID-19. So Steve Brice, principal of the Co-op Academy Manchester, made sure his new Year 6 pupils would feel welcome by recreating every room in the school using several thousand Minecraft blocks.

SPACE SIGHTS

Space Perspective announced that it was taking bookings for a day trip to the stars. Its plan is for a crew and up to eight passengers to travel in Neptune, a pressurised capsule attached to a balloon the size of a football stadium filled with hydrogen.



Space Perspective

SPORTING MOMENT OF THE MONTH: LIVERPOOL TRIUMPH

LIVERPOOL won the Premier League for the first time since it began in 1992. It was their first English league title for 30 years.

They clinched the trophy after Manchester City's defeat at Chelsea made it impossible for them to catch up with the Reds.



Getty

15. JULY

FirstNews ● Issue 758 ● 25 – 31 December 2020



OUR FAVE PIC



THE round tower at Windsor Castle, where the Queen was living at the time, was lit up blue to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the NHS

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: TAYLOR DROPS A SURPRISE ALBUM!

TAYLOR Swift delighted fans by releasing a surprise album, *Folklore*, in July.

It was the singer's eighth album and the entire thing was written and recorded during lockdown!

Taylor said: "In isolation my imagination has run wild!"



IN JULY WE LEARNED THAT...

PENGUINS SHOOT THEIR POOP

A study in Japan revealed that penguins can shoot their poop a whopping 1.2m! Physicist Hiroyuki Tajima of Kochi University and Fumiya Fujisawa of Katsurahama Aquarium studied Humboldt penguins. They discovered that for the birds to shoot their poo such long distances, they have to fire their droppings out of their bums at a speed of 4.5mph. Talk about super poopers!



STORMZY'S A PRETTY GOOD DECORATOR

A 15-year-old boy had a surprise when he got home from school to find Stormzy decorating his bedroom. The rapper was showing off his painting skills as part of a scheme run by The Good Guys, a company that decorates the bedrooms of deserving young people for free.

GOOD MONTH FOR OUR LUNGS

NEW research by health charity ASH and UCL revealed that more than a million people quit smoking since the COVID-19 pandemic began.



BAD MONTH FOR BANKSY

CLEANERS at Transport for London removed new graffiti by street artist Banksy from a Tube carriage by mistake. The piece, *If You Don't Mask, You Don't Get*, was painted inside a Circle Line train but, by the time Banksy revealed the piece on social media, it had gone.

ANIMALS OF THE MONTH: Gunner and Delta

MEET besties Gunner the dog and Delta the dolphin.

The pair became a viral sensation when pics of the unlikely pals, who met at a dolphin sanctuary, appeared online.



Gunner and Delta meeting seven years apart!

16. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

AUGUST

THE summer meant no more homeschooling, a mini heatwave and a huge problem with exam results...



THE **BIG** STORY!

EXAM RESULTS FIASCO



THE voices of young people were heard loud and clear, as Northern Ireland, Wales and then England all decided to award GCSEs and A Levels based on grades predicted by teachers.

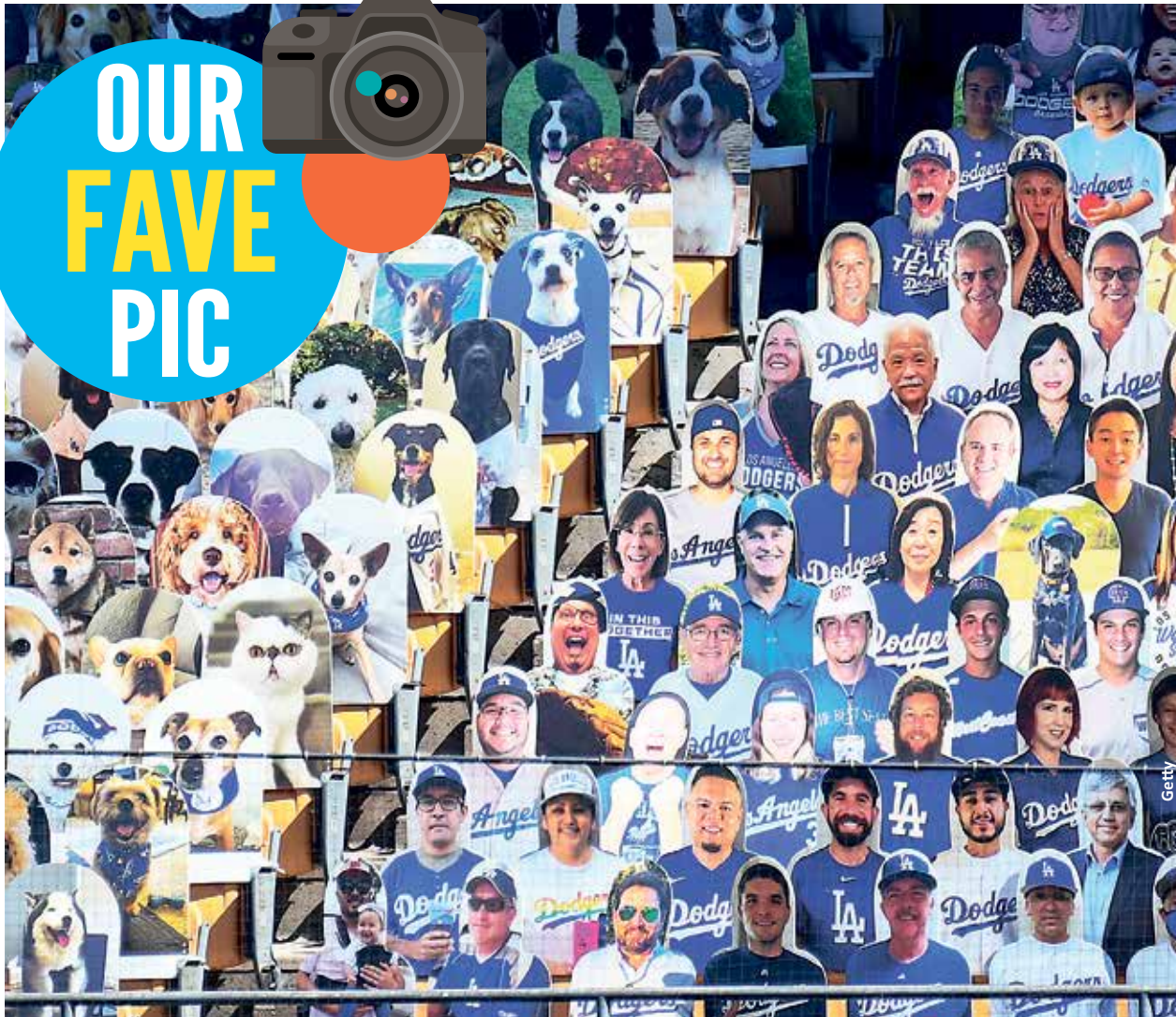
There were huge protests after A Level results were released, and it became clear that many students felt cheated by the computer program used to award grades this year.

The Government and exam regulators thought it was the fairest way to award grades after exams were called off because of the pandemic, but many pupils saw their marks drop by several

grades. The downgrades particularly affected pupils from disadvantaged areas, as the marks were adjusted partly based on a school's past performance.

"We understand this has been a distressing time for students," said Roger Taylor, head of exam regulator Ofqual, before adding that he was "extremely sorry".

OUR **FAVE** PIC



CUTOUTS of fans of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team were seen next to a section full of cutouts of fans' pets, during the Dodgers' game against the San Francisco Giants. COVID-19 restrictions meant that fans couldn't go to the games, but they could pay to have their cutout in the stadium. All profits went to the team's charity, which works with youth organisations and helps to fight inequality.

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH: A NEW SPECIES OF ELEPHANT SHREW

A "LOST" species of elephant shrew was rediscovered in Africa, more than 50 years since it was last seen.

The tiny creature was found during a scientific expedition to Djibouti, a country on the Horn of Africa. The Somali elephant shrews are also known as Somali sengis, and experts previously believed they only lived in Somalia.

The research team caught their first sengi in one of 1,000 traps they set in 12 locations around the country, using a mixture of peanut butter, oatmeal and yeast as bait. In total, they saw and recorded 12 different animals during their expedition.



Steven Heritage, Yale University Lemur Center



SPORTING MOMENT OF THE MONTH: RUGBY RETURNED

RUGBY union games got under way once again, as the season resumed after five months.

Stands were empty, though, as no crowds were allowed into the stadiums to watch the matches.

CALIFORNIA STRUCK BY WILDFIRES

FIRE crews in California battled massive wildfires that forced thousands of people from their homes in Los Angeles.

Thousands of firefighters, backed by helicopters and water-dumping planes, tackled the blazes.



BTS RULED THE WORLD!

THE K-pop group's video for *Dynamite* broke the YouTube record for most-viewed video in 24 hours!

Dynamite was the band's first ever all-English single and racked up 101.1 million views on the first day it appeared on the video-sharing site.



THE WORLD GOT HOTTER



THIS month the annual State of the Climate report revealed that the last decade – 2010 to 2019 – was the hottest ever recorded on Earth.

The report, which was written by 520 scientists from more than 60 countries, found that every decade since 1980 had been warmer than the one before. The Met Office's State of the UK Climate report recently found that the last decade was the UK's warmest too. Both reports talked about other negative effects of man-made climate change.

GOOD MONTH FOR PARKS

THE Government announced that money from its Getting Building fund will go towards creating new parks in England. £23 million of the £900 million fund will go towards the construction of a massive new park in Manchester's city centre.



BAD MONTH FOR US TIKTOK USERS

PRESIDENT Trump tried to shut down the video-sharing app in the US, after he said that data was being shared with the app's Chinese owners. TikTok, however, challenged the ban, describing it as unfair. The battle still rumbles on.

18. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

SEPTEMBER

BACK to school, hero hounds, striking for the climate and amazing kids – September was an inspirational month!



THE **BIG**
STORY!

STRIKE FOR THE PLANET



FRIDAY 25 September saw thousands of young people all around the world protest to demand urgent action to tackle the climate crisis.

The School Strike For Climate movement (also known as Fridays For Future) was started by Greta Thunberg.

“Extreme weather driven by the climate crisis is accelerating around the world, and yet we still don’t treat it as a crisis,” said Greta. “We are in a global emergency that affects all of us. However, not everyone is suffering its consequences equally and the

media ignore the devastation in global south countries being disproportionately hit. On Friday 25 September, Fridays For Future and the youth climate movement will strike again around the world, in a safe way and following COVID-19 guidelines, to demand those in power treat this like the urgent crisis it is.”

Greta’s protest took place outside the Swedish parliament.

TALKING POINTS

RAINBOWS were one of the themes of the year, and cropped up in stories everywhere.



© Citroën Communication/DR

CARS FOR 14-YEAR-OLDS

A NEW car that children aged 14 and over are legally allowed to drive appeared on the streets of France. The Citroën Ami (French for ‘friend’) is a dinky two-seat electric car available in a Paris ride-sharing scheme called Free2Move. It’s classed more like a moped than a car, so you don’t even need a licence to drive one.



Getty

BACK TO SCHOOL

MANY pupils across Britain headed back to the classrooms for the first time since the pandemic closed schools back in March. Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: “It’s vitally important that we get our children back into the classroom to learn and to be with their friends. Nothing will have a greater effect on the life chances of our children than returning to school.”

DIVERSITY’S BLM ROUTINE

DIVERSITY got the attention of the nation when they performed a powerful dance routine inspired by Black Lives Matter on *Britain’s Got Talent*.

The dance troupe’s performance, which included references to George Floyd’s death, was widely praised. However, TV watchdog Ofcom received more than 20,000 complaints about the routine and the group were subjected to racial abuse. Ashley Banjo said that, despite the negativity, “the positive response has been huge”.



Getty



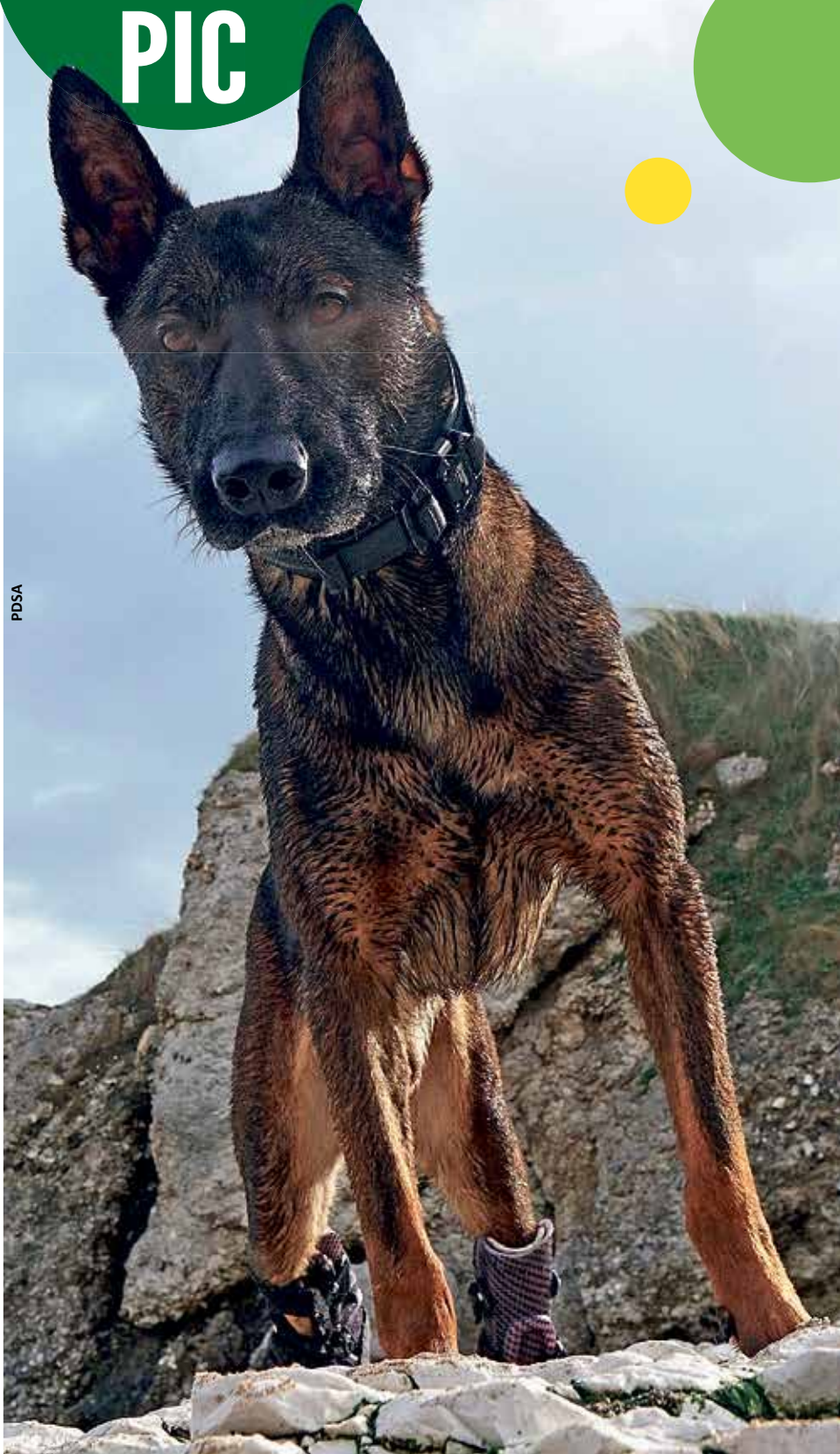
GOOD MONTH FOR BEACHES

THIS year’s Great British Beach Clean took place between 18-25 September. Over the years, the Marine Conservation Society’s annual clean-up has seen 319 tonnes of litter being picked up from beaches around the country.

OUR FAVE PIC



PDSA



IN September it was announced that a military dog who was wounded saving soldiers' lives in Afghanistan would get a very special award for bravery.

Back in 2019, Kuno and his handler were taking part in a dangerous operation against al-Qaeda terrorists, when they came under attack and were trapped. Without hesitation, Kuno, wearing night-vision goggles, ran through enemy fire and tackled the gunman, saving the lives of many British troops. The hero hound was hit by bullets in both back legs during the mission and needed life-saving treatment. He lost one of his paws following the attack, but Kuno has now become the first UK military dog to get custom-made prosthetics. For his bravery, the four-year-old Belgian Malinois was awarded the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross, the Dickin Medal, from vet charity PDSA.

INSPIRATIONAL KIDS

THIS month we met quite a few amazing young people...



Just Giving/Caeden Thomson

CAEDEN THOMSON

Seven-year-old Caeden Thomson, who has cerebral palsy and whose parents were told would never be able to walk, climbed Britain's tallest mountain for charity. Caeden trekked 1,345m to the top of Ben Nevis, raising more than £16,000 for his local NHS children's services and the charity SCOPE.

AYAAN AND MIKAEEL

Six-year-olds Ayaan Moosa and Mikaeel Ishaq from east London started their lemonade stand after learning about the situation in Yemen. Tens of thousands of people have been killed during the civil war there, while another 24 million are believed to need aid to survive. Maleficent star Angelina Jolie read about the boys' efforts online and was so impressed she wrote to them with a donation.



Just Giving/Lemonaid Boys



Mercury Press

ASHLEEN MANDRICK

The youngest girl ever to climb Mount Kilimanjaro also took on the Alps. Seven-year-old Ashleen Mandrick from Brighton was on holiday with her family in Venice when they made a last-minute decision to climb the range's second-highest mountain. She ascended 4,400 metres to the Parrotspitze on Monte Rosa, and is thought to be the youngest person to climb the Alps' second-highest mountain.

MARVELLOUS MO!



Getty

ALSO in September, four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah enjoyed success on his first return to the track since 2017.

The men's one-hour race sees athletes try to run as far as possible over 60 minutes. At the Diamond League meeting in Brussels, 37-year-old Sir Mo ran 21,330m, setting his first outdoor world record.

Mo had been concentrating so hard on the race that he failed to hear the finishing gun and continued to run for an extra 20 seconds!

20. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

OCTOBER



AS autumn continued, we celebrated a slightly different Halloween than we were used to, some areas of the country went back under greater restrictions and a president was struck down by the coronavirus. And there were some awesome achievements!

THE BIG STORY!



SCHOOLBOY SAILOR

TEENAGER Timothy Long became the youngest person to sail solo around Britain.

Timothy, 15, from Aylesbury, had to battle force seven winds and thick fog during the 11-week journey, sometimes not able to see more than a boat's length ahead. Adding to the epic achievement, Timothy also raised more than £10,000 for charity. 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. Timothy raised the money for her Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, a national charity that supports young people to rebuild their confidence after cancer, by introducing them to sailing.

ANIMALS OF THE MONTH: CHECK OUT THESE CUTE SUPER SNIFFERS!



PDSA

THIS clever rat was given a very special award for sniffing out landmines in Cambodia.

Giant pouched rat Magawa was given the PDSA Gold Medal for his life-saving work and devotion to duty. The rodent was trained by charity Apopo to sniff out the chemical compounds in explosives and to alert humans. He managed to discover 39 landmines.



Guide Dogs

THESE three young guide dogs are being retrained as medical detection dogs to help in the fight against COVID-19.

Ivan, Maple and Spencer were raised as guide dogs, but their trainers decided they weren't quite right to help people with sight loss. Instead, they changed careers and are being trained to be part of the elite Medical Detection Dogs team. They will join several other dogs who have already begun training for a COVID-19 trial.

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: THOR RELEASES DEVILS

IN October, actors Chris Hemsworth and Elsa Pataky 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 (below), released 26 Tasmanian devils into a 400-hectare sanctuary at Barrington Tops, north of Sydney.



@7NewsAustralia/Twitter

TRUMP GOT COVID



US President Donald Trump tested positive for COVID-19 on 1 October.

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

After testing positive, the president was taken to Walter Reed Medical Center on 2 October and spent the weekend there. Then, on 5 October, he left the hospital and returned to the White House, where he stood on the balcony and removed his mask.

TALKING POINTS

GOALS and grows were on our minds in October.

GREAT GOAL SCORER

Arsenal's Vivianne Miedema (far right) became the first player to score 50 goals in the Women's Super League – and it only took her 50 games to break the record! The Dutch player is also the Netherlands' leading goalscorer, with 70 goals in 91 appearances.



HELPING THE UK GROW

In October we launched Helping the UK Grow, a brand-new First News movement to unite the country after such a difficult year. The #HelpingTheUKGrow challenge launched with us asking everyone to plant a symbol of hope and growth for all our futures. From bulbs in gardens and trees at schools, to cress on your windowsills, you amazed us with your efforts.

OUR FAVE PIC



IN this month we found out that a giant puppet of a refugee child will travel nearly 8,000km (5,000 miles) from the Turkey-Syria border to the UK. The 3.5m-tall puppet is of a nine-year-old called Little Amal and will represent the stories of refugee children on her journey from the Syrian border through Turkey, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France to Britain, in search of her mother. She will enter the UK at Folkestone and celebrate her tenth birthday in London, before making her way to the end of her journey in Manchester. Little Amal will begin her epic journey in April 2021.

22. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

NOVEMBER

ALTHOUGH many of us went back into lockdown this month, some pretty major things still happened: America voted for a new president, Lewis Hamilton celebrated a huge achievement and Marcus Rashford stepped up for kids again.

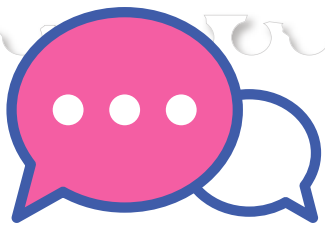
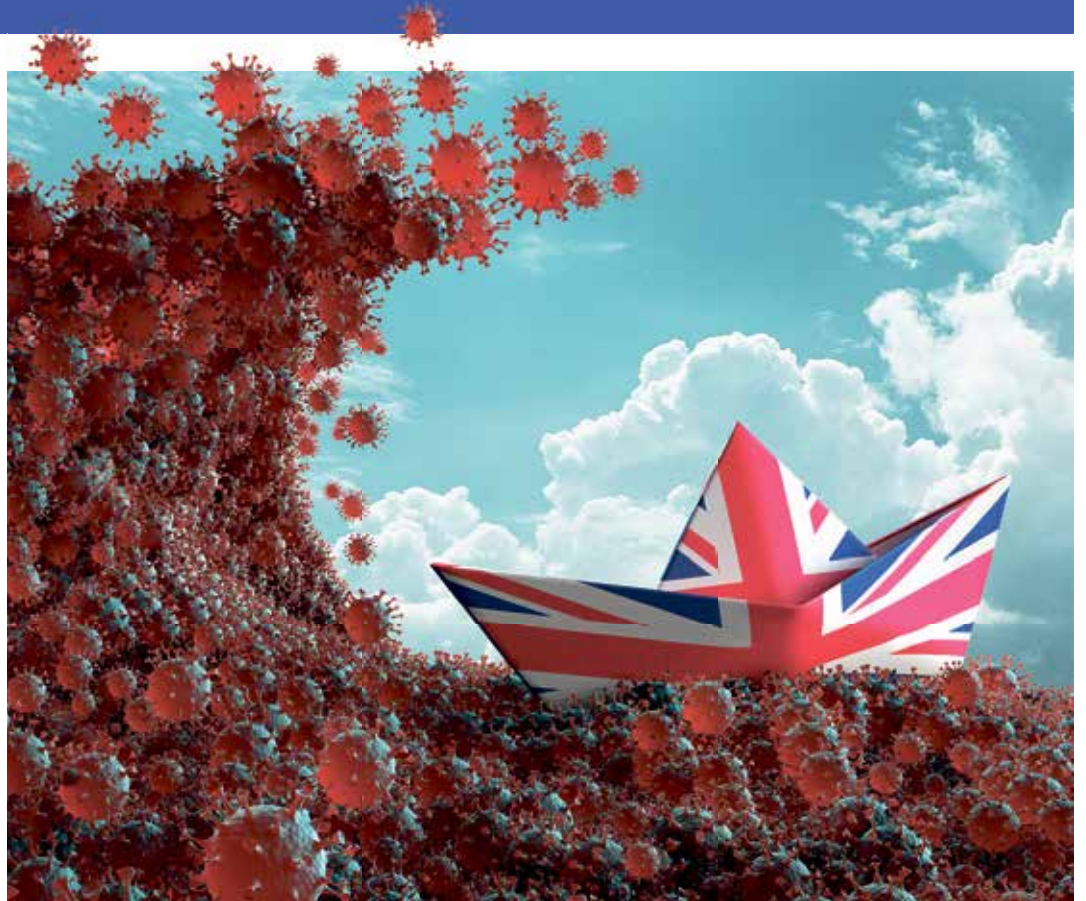


LOCKDOWN THE BIG STORY! NUMBER TWO

ON Thursday 5 November, England went into lockdown again, as a second wave of coronavirus swept the country.

Although schools remained open, people in England couldn't meet anyone in their homes or gardens outside of any support bubble. After-school clubs stopped, grown-ups had to work from home where they could and all shops, apart from food shops, hairdressers, restaurants and pubs had to shut.

The second lockdown ended on 2 December, when different parts of the country moved into tier-related restrictions.



TALKING POINTS

AN odd critter became even odder, and COVID testing got even more complicated in November.

GLOW IN THE DARK PLATYPUS

A chance discovery by scientists in the USA revealed that the thick fur of the platypus glows under ultraviolet (UV) light. They were researching the only two other mammals with fluorescent fur and decided to test the platypus. They were shocked to find that under UV light the fur turned vivid blue and green!



iStock

MASS TESTING

Liverpool became the first major city in the UK to offer a COVID-19 test to anyone who wanted one – even if they had no symptoms. Everyone living or working in the city, which has a population of 500,000, was being encouraged to go to the test centres. By testing so many people it was hoped that those who were infected would be identified quickly, and the local council would then get a better idea of how the virus was spreading.



iStock



HAPPY HAMILTON

AFTER winning the Turkish Grand Prix, Lewis Hamilton became F1's most successful driver ever, equalling the record of seven championship titles.

It was a brilliant month for Lewis, who made history when he won the Portuguese Grand Prix, his 92nd victory. That win meant that he overtook the legendary Michael Schumacher, who retired in 2012, as F1's record all-time race winner.



WATER ON THE MOON

IN November, NASA revealed that it had discovered water molecules in a sunlit crater on the surface of the moon. The water was seen in Clavius Crater, one of the largest craters visible from Earth.

OUR
FAVE
PIC

A DUTCH train driver had a lucky escape when his train was caught by a huge plastic whale tail after it shot off the end of a station platform. Only the train operator was on board when the metro train crashed and, thanks to the whale sculpture, he was able to free himself without being injured.

AMERICA
CHOSE
A NEW
PRESIDENT

THIS month, Americans voted for Joe Biden to be their president for the next four years.

A record number of people voted in the election – at least 140 million – with the Republican Party's Donald Trump, the current president, and the Democratic Party's challenger Joe Biden polling the two highest vote counts in US election history. It was also a much closer contest than many people thought it would be, with only a few thousand votes separating the candidates in a handful of key states.

Joe Biden's vice president will be Kamala Harris – the first female and the first black vice president of America.

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH:
THE AMAZING HIDING ELEPHANT

THIS cheeky youngster tried to hide behind a pole, perhaps forgetting it was the size of an elephant.

The elephant was spotted by locals in Thailand snaffling some sugarcane from a farmer's field. When the locals shone a light on the cheeky sugar snatcher, it 'hid' behind a pole and stayed still, thinking no-one could spot it.

THIS MONTH'S TOP 3 FEELGOOD MOMENTS

1



Suki Dhanda

MARCUS RASHFORD GAVE BACK

Hundreds of organisations across the country offered free meals to children after pleas from the England and Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford. Marcus also launched his own book club, to spread the joy of reading to all kids. The England star said: "One of the aims of the book club is to make sure children from vulnerable and under-privileged backgrounds have access to books," after saying that books were "never a thing we could budget for as a family".

2



JustGiving/Ruth Saunders 104

104-YEAR-OLD HERO

Ruth Saunders, 104, from Newbury decided to follow in Captain Tom's footsteps and walk 104 laps of the roads around her home. She raised over £38,000 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

3



wilburbeast2020/Instagram

MEET MAYOR WILBUR

A six-month-old French bulldog was voted the mayor of Rabbit Hash, a small town in Kentucky! According to his owner, Amy Noland, Mayor Wilbur is handling the stresses and strains of his new position well: "He's had a lot of pets, a lot of belly scratches and a lot of ear rubs."

24. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020

DECEMBER

DESPITE the bumpy year we've had, 2020 has ended like it started – with lots of us talking about Brexit. There was also a lot of discussion around how merry we could make Christmas this year, and we tried to cheer everyone up with an issue filled with non-stop happy news. Of course, you probably remember all this, as it was only a couple of weeks ago!



BREXIT NEGOTIATIONS GO ON, AND ON...

THE BIG
STORY!

WE left this story until just before we went to press, in the hope that something would finally happen in the Brexit negotiations.

But it was looking like politicians would have to pray for a Christmas miracle instead, as the frustrating talks were still going on, with just days to go until the transition period ends and the UK finally leaves the EU at the end of 2020.

If a deal can't be agreed, the UK will leave without one. This 'no deal' Brexit is widely seen as being bad for both sides, but the talks have been stuck on two issues: making competition between businesses fair, and whether EU fishing boats will be allowed access to UK waters. Maybe Santa will bring Boris Johnson a deal and we'll have some news for you after Christmas...



Although fishing makes up just 0.1% of the UK economy, "taking back control" of Britain's borders and waters was one of the key features of the Brexit campaign, although that would hurt the fishing industry in Ireland and the rest of the EU

TALKING POINTS

WILL it be a merry Christmas and a green New Year?

CHRISTMAS QUESTION

AFTER scientists recommended that we should have our celebrations online or outside this year, we asked you what you thought. Should Christmas involve big family gatherings this year? While 46% of you said yes, 54% said no. First News commenter opalstar said: "We're all in this together. Maybe next Christmas we can enjoy it together, patience is key. Everyone plays a part!"



iStock

UK'S GREEN PLAN

THE UK set a new climate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 68% (compared to levels in 1990) by the end of the decade. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ambitious plan would see the UK leading the way in tackling climate change, with aims to reach 'net zero' emissions by 2050. At the Climate Ambition Summit, the PM urged other world leaders to bring forward their own plans to cut emissions.



iStock

SHOWBIZ STORY OF THE MONTH: QUEEN OF THE CASTLE CROWNED!



GIOVANNA Fletcher was crowned the first Queen of the Castle after winning this year's *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!*

The author and podcaster beat TV presenter Vernon Kay and BBC Radio 1 DJ Jordan North in the final.

This year the show was set in Wales instead of Australia, because of the travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

SMALLEST CHIP YET

A RESEARCH team in Austin, Texas, USA, succeeded in reducing the size of the storage device they created two years ago. They developed a new memory device that is only one atom thick, and means that faster, smarter and more energy-efficient chips for phones and computers could be on the way.



iStock

25. DECEMBER

OUR
FAVE
PIC



US President Donald Trump was still refusing to wear a mask for large parts of an American football match between troops from the US Army and Navy, going against the recommendations of his government's own scientists. However, it did at least give us this accidentally hilarious picture of President Trump alongside someone wearing a superb donkey mascot outfit.

COVID VACCINATIONS BEGIN



THE vaccine, produced by American company Pfizer and German firm BioNTech, was the first to get approval from UK authorities. It involves two jabs being given 21 days apart. Vaccines have to go through a lot of research and testing to make sure they're effective and safe, and there are now 56 COVID-19 vaccines in trials worldwide. Most are nowhere near ready to be approved by medical authorities for use in the general public, but several – including the Pfizer/BioNTech jab – have been authorised for use in several countries. Margaret Keenan (above) was the first in the UK to get the vaccination. Now 91, Margaret said that the jab was "the best early birthday present".

FirstNews • Issue 756 • 31 December 2020

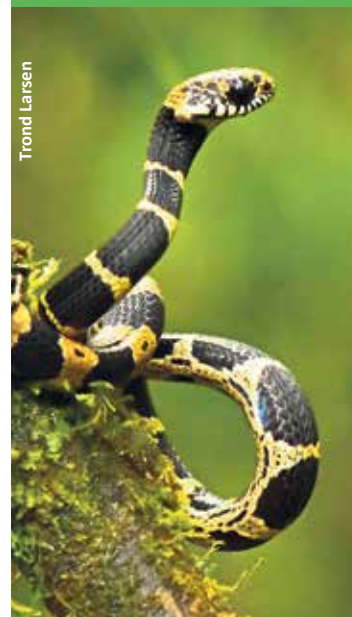
LAB-GROWN MEAT GOES ON SALE

FOR the first time, a company was given permission to sell lab-grown chicken nuggets.

San Francisco-based Eat Just's product went on sale in Singapore this month. The meat is grown from animal muscle cells in a lab and then combined with plant nutrients.

Demand for alternatives to regular meat has surged due to consumer concerns about health, animal welfare and the environment. Environmental organisations and lots of scientists have said that cutting down on meat and dairy products is one of the best things that people can do to reduce their carbon emissions, and that eating more plant-based foods will be good for our health and the planet.

ANIMALS OF THE MONTH: BOLIVIA'S 20 NEW SPECIES



IN the first two weeks of December, researchers found 20 new species in Bolivia's Zongo Valley!

Hidden by clouds, Zongo Valley's forests are more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) above sea level.

The new species were discovered by a team of specialist ecologists from Conservation International, who were investigating the health of the valley's ecosystem.

New snakes, plants, butterflies and frogs were found, but lead researcher Trond Larsen said that the most exciting discovery that the team made was the re-discovery of *Oreobates zongoensis*, a 'devil-eyed' frog. It has only ever been spotted once before, 20 years ago, and was thought to be extinct.

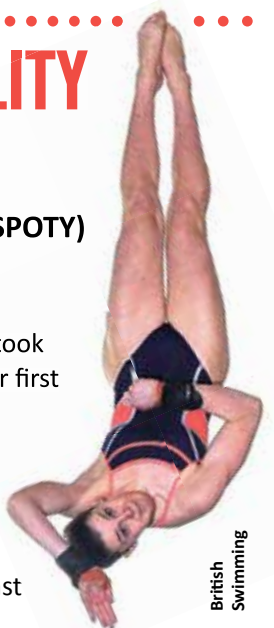
YOUNG SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR 2020

THIS year's Young Sports Personality of the Year (SPOTY) was 16-year-old diver Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix.

Andrea started the year in superb form. At the British Diving Championships in Plymouth in January, she took gold in the final of the women's 10m platform, winning her first ever senior national title.

The following month saw more success, as she bagged a gold medal on the international stage at the FINA Grand Prix in Rostock, Germany.

Like most sports stars, the 16-year-old diver's schedule was badly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but at least she finished the year on a high note.



26. PUZZLE FUN ? ? ? ?

FirstNews ● Issue 758 ● 25 – 31 December 2020

SUDOKU!

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

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

WORD LADDER

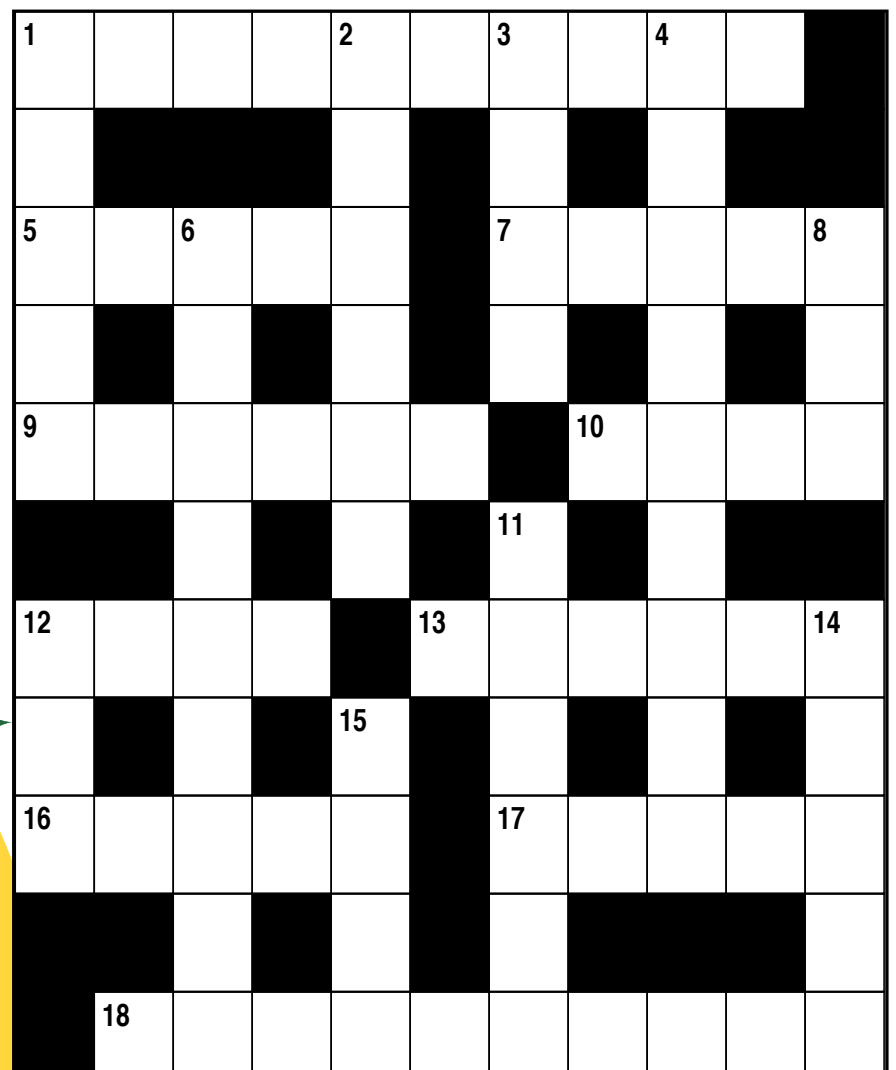
SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

LOBS

BALL

CROSSWORD

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



ACROSS

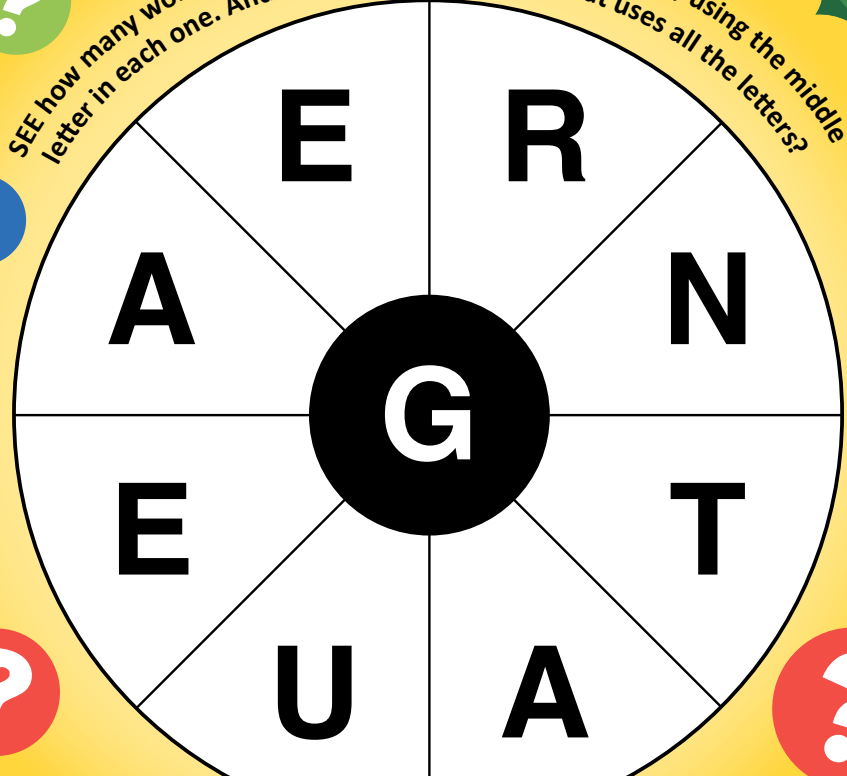
- 1 Wonderful (10)
- 5 Record onto tape (5)
- 7 Very fast (5)
- 9 Decorative pattern; blueprint (6)
- 10 Unit of mass (4)
- 12 Put paper around something (4)
- 13 Enter and attack another country (6)
- 16 Strangely (5)
- 17 Web-footed birds (5)
- 18 Exciting journeys (10)

DOWN

- 1 Changed location (5)
- 2 Sufficient (6)
- 3 Bird with a sweet song (4)
- 4 Written in capital letters (5,4)
- 6 Threw away (9)
- 8 Structure that stops water flowing (3)
- 11 Chess piece that can jump over the other pieces (6)
- 12 Doctor ____ : popular sci-fi TV show (3)
- 14 Seven (anagram) (5)
- 15 Sort (4)

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?



27. PUZZLE FUN

HOW TO ENTER:

Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 758** in the subject box. We're afraid we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for puzzle entries is **Thursday 31 December 2020**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

JUST for fun this week! Can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from Mickey's Once Upon A Christmas?



WORDSEARCH : WHAT ON EARTH?

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

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

THESE are all foods associated with Christmas. Can you guess what they are?



- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big Ben | <input type="checkbox"/> Fireworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Midnight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar | <input type="checkbox"/> Champagne | <input type="checkbox"/> Celebration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Countdown | <input type="checkbox"/> Parade | <input type="checkbox"/> Tradition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auld Lang Syne | <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Party |

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: Kevin's T-shirt is blue, robber removed from window, Kevin's head is bigger, gold decoration missing from tree, Santa illustration on box.

Word ladder: fast, last, lost, loss, lows, cows.

Word wheel: expanding.

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

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

44 Cats™

Hi! We are the 44 Cats – Lampo, Milady, Meatball and Pilou. We're four super-friendly kittens who live in the garage of Granny Pina's house.

She likes to look after us and lets us perform in our band, The Buffycats, singing and playing music to our pawtastic cat friends. Helping them, having fun and looking after each other is really important to us, and we know there's nothing better than friendship.

We also have our own TV series, so why don't you join the fun and watch with us?

MEATBALL

I play keyboards in The Buffycats! When I get hungry, I know danger is near. But when I'm not sensing danger, I like to make my friends laugh, chill out and eat pasta!

MILADY

I have a special power called Kat-Fu! It means I'm clever and really fast when I need to be! I play the bass guitar in our band.

PILOU

I love to be silly and mess about! But I also like to look after people. If I can make you smile, I will! I like being noisy, so the instrument I play is the drums! Boom!

LAMPO

Hi everybody! I'm Lampo and I'm the unofficial leader of the 44 Cats. I love to look after my friends. I play the guitar in The Buffycats.

WIN!

44 Cats is giving you the chance to win a tea party for you and 19 friends in a venue near your home. The prize will include an appearance by the 44 Cats, food, music, games and goody bags*. To enter, just answer this question:

What is the name of the band that the 44 Cats play in?

a) The Fluffycats b) The Buffycats c) The Puppycats

Send us your answer, along with your name, age and contact details to: win@grapevine-pr.co.uk

The competition closes on 4 January 2021

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*The tea party will be arranged at a suitable time when it can go ahead with COVID-19 safety measures in place. Entry is open to residents of the UK and Republic of Ireland only. Please make sure you have your parent or guardian's permission to enter. Full terms and conditions can be found at live.firstnews.co.uk/terms

44 Cats is on **Pop TV** every morning, seven days a week. It's also available on **Nick Toons**, **Netflix** and **YouTube**.

