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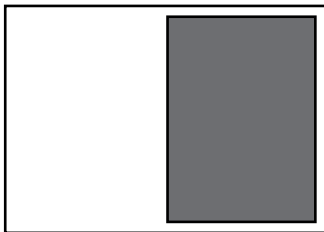
Spring 2018 Edition

Government *WORLD*™

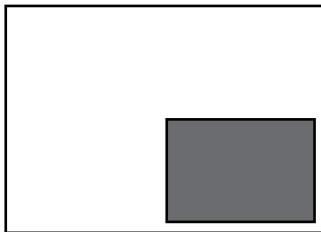
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Cover picture: welters Standing Stones



By Paul G Bazeley for
Government World

Paul's News Roundup

*Summary of the main news
and sports events over the last
three months*

January News Review

Carillon, the UK's second-biggest construction company went into liquidation after the business, their lenders and the government failed to agree on a deal. The firm gathered debts of around £1.5bn and is involved in the HS2 project. The news puts tens of thousands of jobs at risk.

Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon, was announced

to be the richest person in history. It was reported by Forbes that his net worth was over \$104billion. Most of the money is down to the 78.9m of Amazon shares he owns.

The Bayeux Tapestry, which depicts the Norman Conquest of England, will be shown in the UK for the first time in 950 years after France said it could be lent out. The loan is said to be dependent on the artwork being safe to move.

California legalised

cannabis fourteen months after the state voted in favour of Proposition 64. It will be the largest US state to legalise the drug and means anyone over the age of 21 may possess up to an ounce of cannabis. The industry could be worth billions of dollars.

The film Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri won the best film Golden Globe. Gary Oldman won the best actor award and Frances McDormand the best actress award.

Bruno Mars won best album for 24K Magic at the 60th Grammy Awards. The musician also won several other awards including song of the year for That's What I Like. Kendrick Lamar won best rap album for Damn and Ed Sheeran won best pop vocal album for Divide.

In a world first, a drone rescued two swimmers in Australia. What was supposed to be a training session became a real rescue when two swimmers were seen struggling in a 10-metre swell. The drone was launched by lifeguards, steered toward the swimmers and then launched a 'rescue pod' which expanded allowing the swimmers to swim back to shore.

January Sports Review

Roger Federer beat Maron Cilic in the Australian Open and became the first man to win 20 Grand Slam titles and break yet another Tennis record.

Rob Cross beat Phil 'The Power' Taylor to win the World Dart Championship just 11 months after entering his first tournament as a professional. It meant there was no fairytale finish for 16-time champion Taylor who retired after the tournament.

The Premiership Darts Corporations

(PDC) announced it would scrap the use of 'walk on' girls after sexism concerns. Formula One also announced it would stop using 'grid girls' in its next season.

The Video Assistant Referee (VAR) made its English football debut in an FA Cup game between Brighton and Hove Albion and Crystal Palace.

February News Review

Seventeen people were killed and many more injured in a shooting at the Stoneman Douglas School, Florida. A 19-year-old, Nikolas Cruz, was arrested shortly afterwards. The shooting has become one of the deadliest school shootings in history. According to reports, there

had been several tips about Cruz's threat to carry out a school shooting. The incident once again brought gun control in the USA to the forefront of the news.

In an unexpected turn, North Korea and South Korea marched under one flag and competed as one team in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. It was seen as a relief for many countries as tensions between the two had been high for some time.

The toy store Toys R Us and the electrical retailer Maplins went into administration on the same day. Both companies have struggled due to internet-based competition and the news put over 5000 jobs at risk.

Scientists discovered around 100 exoplanets beyond the Milky Way. Seven Earth-like planets were found to be orbiting a nearby star, Trappist 1. All seven were found to be close in size to Earth and are potentially warm enough for water and life. The discovery raises hopes for life beyond the solar system.

SpaceX launched its Falcon Heavy rocket into space. It was the company's largest rocket to date and was testing a large payload. Traditionally this is tested with a concrete block, however, for this project Elon Musk (who is CEO of SpaceX and Tesla) decided they would test it with a Tesla Roadster with a dummy astronaut called Starman in the driver seat. The launch was deemed a

success.

The Seychelles designated two new marine protected areas with a combined size of 81,100 miles, roughly the size of Great Britain. This means commercial fishing, oil exploration and any sort of development will not be allowed on the sites. The announcement was part of a deal which meant the country would reduce some of its national debt by making around a third of its marine area protected.

The Nasa project QueSST (Quiet Supersonic Technology) received funding from Trump's US budget. The experimental aircraft will be an alternative to Concorde that they claim will be more efficient and quieter.

February Sports Review

Super Bowl LII saw the Philadelphia Eagles win the Super Bowl title after beating the New England Patriots 41-33 in Minneapolis. It meant that

the 40-year old quarterback Tom Brady did not win another winners ring; however, he did break the Super Bowl passing record by completing 505 yards through the air.

The 2018 Winter Olympics took place in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Norway topped the medal table winning 14 gold medals and totalling 39 medals overall. Great Britain finished with 5 medals, one gold and four bronze.

The Russian athletes who were deemed performance-enhancing drug free were allowed to take part in the games under the name Olympic Athletes from Russia. Nevertheless, the team were under scrutiny once again after it was revealed the Russian Bobsledder, Nadezhda Sergeeva, tested positive

for a banned substance.

In football, Manchester City beat Arsenal at Wembley Stadium to win the EFL Cup. Pep Guardiola's side produced an emphatic victory beating the Gunners 3-0 giving the Spanish manager his first piece of silverware in English football.

March News Review

The former Russian military intelligence officer and British spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia Skripal were poisoned with a nerve agent. The pair were poisoned in Salisbury, a police officer who tended to them was also poisoned, but was later released from hospital. Theresa May accused Russia of attempted murder which led to the British government imposing sanctions,

including expelling some Russian diplomats. The aftershocks were still being felt at the time of writing with other countries imposing sanctions on Russia. Russia denies they were involved.

The death of Russian businessman Nikolai Glushkov, which occurred eight days after the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, was being treated as murder. A post-mortem revealed he had died to 'compression to the neck'. There was nothing to suggest the murder was linked to the Skripal case, however, Amber Rudd later instructed police to look at 14 deaths that were not originally thought to be suspicious, but were rumoured to have Russian state involvement.

The physicist Stephen Hawking died aged 76. The professor was diagnosed with a rare form of motor neurone disease at the age of 22 and was given a few years to live. In 1988 he released his A Brief History of Time which has sold over 10million copies to date. Tributes poured in from all over the world for the forward-thinking scientist.

An unexpected invitation from North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un to Donald Trump was accepted by the US President. After months of building tension, the landmark meeting is set to discuss nuclear weapon programmes. As far as we know, a date is yet to be agreed.

It was revealed that the company Cambridge Analytica gathered data from 50million Facebook users. This information was then used to influence voters opinions. Facebook has apologised claiming the data collection was inappropriate, an investigation has been launched. The news could cause worldwide

implications as Cambridge Analytica was also used by politicians across the world and for the Brexit vote.

Five package bombs exploded throughout the month of March in Austin, Texas. The suspect was 23-year-old Mark Conditt, he was pulled over by police and blew himself up. A video was found on his phone where he confessed to the bombings. A motive is as yet unknown.

The 90th Academy Awards took place in Hollywood. The Shape of Water won best picture, Frances McDormand won best actress and Gary Oldman won best actor.

Vladimir Putin won his fourth term as Russian President winning 77% of the vote. Some allegations

of box stuffing and forced voting have been made.

Several gun violence protests took place in America following the Stoneman Douglas School shooting the month before. Some gun restrictions have been put in place in parts of America following the incident.

The music magazine the NME produced its last print edition and will now be a digital-only magazine. NME had been in print for over 60 years, in 2015 the magazine launched as a free magazine paid for only by advertising, however, the move didn't work and it joins a list of other magazines which are now based solely on the internet.

The world's oldest message in a bottle was found on a

beach in Western Australia. The note was originally from a German ship and was part of an experiment. The letter was dated 12 June 1886.

A report was released warning that the amount of plastic debris found in the ocean could treble in the next 10 years.

A man who believes the Earth is flat launched himself 600 metres into the sky in a homemade rocket. The mission took place in the Californian desert, the man known as Mad Mike Hughes returned to Earth and was ok. It is believed the limo driver still thinks the Earth is flat.

March Sports Review

The International Football Association Board approved the use of

Video Assistant Referees (VAR). The association deemed its trials to have been successful and the announcement means the technology will be used in the forthcoming World Cup in Russia. An IFAB statement said the decision "represents a new era for football"

The Dutch swimmer Marteen van de Weijden set a new 24-hour swimming record. The 2008 Olympic gold medallist swam 63.8 miles in a 25m pool within 24 hours, beating the previous record by 0.5 miles.

The Winter Paralympics were held in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The United States topped the medal table with 13 gold medals and 36 overall. Great Britain managed to win one gold, four silvers and two bronze medals.

END

Greens call for sanitary products to be made available to all those in need



Deputy Leader of the Green Party Amelia Womack has called for sanitary products to be made available free to any vulnerable person who needs them.

Womack's intervention comes after the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) found that police were, in the ICVA's words, "routinely ignoring" the needs of women detainees who are on their periods [1]. She added that the government should work with ethical green companies to ensure green

sanitary products can be made available.

Womack said:

"I cannot begin to imagine the trauma these women are going through - put away in prison and denied their basic rights to sanitation. And while the ICVA's report is welcome and revelatory, we have to be honest that this is a problem not only found in Britain's prisons. Women struggling on a low income also regularly have to find free alternatives - from paper towels to newspapers - to sanitary products. It cannot go on. That's why the Green Party is calling for a national fund to be created that gives vulnerable women - those who are homeless, on a low income, or in prison - free access to sanitary products. It's what a decent society would do."



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Hunt's apology will be little comfort to patients seeing operations cancelled

By Greg Foster Lib Dems



Patients will die and families will suffer because of the impossible pressure the NHS is being put under. But there is a better way.

Jeremy Hunt's apology will be little comfort to the tens of thousands of people across the country seeing their operations delayed.

There is no doubt that patients will die and families will suffer because of the impossible pressure the NHS is being put under.

Tragically this crisis was wholly predictable and preventable.

People will rightly be

infuriated that the government has refused to put in enough resources to stave off another winter crisis.

We cannot allow the NHS to keep going from crisis to crisis in this way.

The Liberal Democrats would put a penny on income tax to raise an extra £6bn a year for the NHS and social care.

We are also leading calls for the Government to start a cross-party process to develop a long-term, sustainable financial settlement for these vital services.

SNP Ministers failed to act on flu warnings



Scottish Shadow health secretary Miles Briggs

SNP Ministers failed to act on clear warnings that Scotland faced an imminent flu crisis this winter, the Scottish Conservatives have said.

Calls to boost jab rates ahead of this winter were made last September after figures revealed a drop in the number of inoculations to all groups for whom the flu jab is recommended.

At the time, the Scottish Conservatives urged action to ensure more people received the crucial flu jab this winter.

However, provisional figures for this year suggest that uptake in key groups is no higher than last year.

The fears about low jab rates was reinforced in December

when further figures revealed that only one in three healthcare workers received flu jabs last winter – well below the target of 50%.

Shadow health secretary Miles Briggs said the SNP had failed to heed warnings about an imminent flu crisis hitting the NHS.

He said Ministers now needed to set out action to ensure more people were getting the right jab for the rest of the winter.

Scottish Conservative shadow health secretary Miles Briggs MSP said:

“The SNP was warned about the dangers of a flu crisis this winter. All the signs were there. They knew vaccination rates were dropping.

“Yet despite our repeated calls for action, they failed to act in time to protect more people, and support our NHS.

“Instead all we get are excuses and belated attempts to act.

“This whole sorry episode is yet more evidence of SNP mismanagement of our NHS. Shona Robison should apologise immediately for her mishandling of this crisis.

“They knew they had a problem – and, once again, were found asleep at the wheel. It is a disgrace.”

Government announces plans to extend pub opening hours for Royal Wedding

The government has launched a public consultation on plans to extend licensing hours on the nights of Friday 18 and Saturday 19 May until 1am the following morning, to give everyone the chance to celebrate the occasion.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“The Royal Wedding will be a time of national celebration, and we want everyone to be able to make the most of such an historic occasion.

“I hope that this relaxation of the licensing hours will allow people to extend their festivities and come together to mark what will be a very special moment for the country.

Licensing hours orders have previously been made for occasions of national

significance including the Queen’s 90th birthday, the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011, and the World Cup in 2014.

Chief Executive of the British Beer and Pub Association, Brigid Simmonds, said:

“This is great news for pubs and pub-goers and shows the government has listened to our calls to put pubs at the heart of the Royal Wedding celebrations.

“Visitors see the Great British pub as a cultural icon, almost as much as the Royal Family. Extended hours would give a £10million boost to the trade and make the most of the expected increase in tourism.

The government proposes to make a licensing hours order under Section 172 of the Licensing Act, which would extend opening hours

for the sale of alcohol to benefit those premises in England and Wales which are not normally licensed until 1am.

The 4-week public consultation will give the public the opportunity to submit their views on the proposals. The government will also seek the views of specific stakeholders, including the police, licensing authorities and alcohol awareness groups.

The Royal Wedding will coincide with the FA Cup Final. There have been no reports of increased disorder as a result of the previous extensions to licensing hours including the extension for the weekend of Her Majesty’s 90th birthday, which coincided with 2 Euro 2016 matches involving England and Wales, and the extension of licensing hours during the World Cup 2014.

It’s concerning that the sales of new cars are falling - Long-Bailey

Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Labour’s Shadow Business Secretary, commenting on the fall in new car sales for the first time in six years, said:

“The Government’s mismanagement of the economy and mishandling of the Brexit negotiations has shaken consumer and business confidence and it’s concerning that the sales of new cars are falling.

“The industry has been warning the Government time and time again and, as has become typical with the Tories, they have failed to listen or take action.

“The British car industry is a vital part of our economy, directly employing up to 170,000 people. Labour’s Industrial Strategy will set out a radical programme of investment and genuine partnership between industry and government, to protect vital jobs and build an economy that works for the many, not the few.”

Welsh Secretary kicks off 2018 with EU exit talks



Alun Cairns was appointed Secretary of State for Wales

Caspian Point to discuss their priorities for Brexit and to update them on negotiations and the progress of the Withdrawal Bill.

Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said.

“As we move closer towards our exit from the European Union, the job of listening to, and understanding the needs of, those who live, work and do business in Wales becomes ever more important.

“The UK Government’s overriding goal is to make sure that the voices of sectors from all parts of the UK are listened to as we navigate an exit that works for everyone.

“That is why I am working with experts from across all sectors in Wales to examine

the challenges posed by Brexit and to explore the great opportunities for growth in business and employment.”

The EU (Withdrawal) Bill is a key piece of legislation in the national interest which will convert EU law to UK law on exit day, ensuring certainty and continuity as we leave the EU.

The Secretary of State for Wales established the Expert Panel to work with him to deliver a smooth and orderly exit from the EU in Wales. The fifth meeting builds on the constructive conversations they have already had on how powers returning from the EU should be exercised after exit day.

The Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns will hit the ground running in 2018 when he hosts the next meeting of his EU Exit Expert Panel in Cardiff.

The panel forms part of the UK Government’s nationwide engagement with those with key interests in our exit from the EU.

Mr Cairns will gather representatives from Welsh businesses, universities and the voluntary, farming, food and health sectors at

welters® complete another successful year



2017 concluded another successful year for the company. With full order books, they are ever confident that 2018 will provide more opportunities for new product developments and innovative contributions to the market.

As the success of the company grows, this also provides an opportunity to bring new staff on board at both the production facility and also for onsite works, creating new jobs and expanding their skilled workforce to cover the increase in productivity and output.

Seven-year-old's invention brought to life by Dstl scientists



Seven-year-old Jacob sent in a design for a brand new submarine, and Government scientists at Dstl produced it.

A seven-year-old boy has had his dream submarine design made into reality by apprentices at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl).

Jacob Bland, from Suffolk, drew his water-propelled design and wrote to Dstl asking if they would like

to make it and use it for “sneaking and spying”.

With the drawing, Dstl’s scientific apprentices worked up the design and printed out a 3-D model using their own 3-D printer. The work provided an excellent opportunity for the apprentices to take a concept design and produce an actual model, which contributes to their National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) evidence.

Jacob’s dad, Matthew Bland, said:

“We are overwhelmed by the thought and effort put in by staff at Dstl. Jake was absolutely made up about the submarine, and it hasn’t left his side yet.

“He is already integrating your suggestions for improvements into a revision, and talking about his plans for a battleship to accompany the submarine. Thank you for everything you did for Jake; it’s great encouragement for his imagination.

19 year-old Verity Jackson has been an engineering apprentice at Dstl for two years and supported by the Platform Systems team within Dstl, she was able to create the 3-D mini yellow submarine.

Apprentice Verity Jackson checks the final model of

the sub

Verity said:

It was really great to be able to reproduce this for Jacob. It was a bit tricky and took quite a bit of work to get the model ready to print, but we are all thrilled with the outcome and equally thrilled we were able to bring Jacob’s drawing to life. On the plus side, the mini project will help towards my qualification.

Damien Holden from Platform Systems, said:

It sounds like Jacob has really thought about his design. We will always need talented, creative people – perhaps Jacob will come to Dstl as an apprentice himself one day.



Apprentice Verity Jackson checks the final model of the sub

Labour's leadership needs to come clean

Liberal Democrat leader Vince Cable has attended the Single Market Summit, the start of a cross-party initiative between opposition party leaders to oppose the Conservatives' hard Brexit. To the anger of many Labour MPs, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn refused to attend.

"This morning I attended the Single Market Summit, the start of a cross-party initiative between opposition leaders to oppose the Conservatives' hard Brexit.

"To the anger of many Labour MPs - and to my great disappointment, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn refused to attend.

"Today's meeting was a good, positive step to

parliamentary co-ordination between opposition parties against the Conservative Brexit.

"There are four parties here who are putting their political differences to one side for the good of the country.

"What is disappointing is that the Labour leadership has declined to take part in this summit, even though nearly nine in 10 of their members want them to argue for staying in the Single Market.

"It is time the Labour leadership came clean and admitted they are tacitly colluding with the Conservatives on Brexit.

"They are failing their members and the country."

BCC comments on inflation statistics for December 2017

Commenting on the inflation statistics for December, released by the ONS, Suren Thiru, Head of Economics at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said:

"Inflation has eased for the first time since June 2017, with air fares placing the largest downward pressure on price growth in December.

"It's probable that inflation is on a downward trajectory, as the impact of the post-EU referendum slide in sterling starts to fade. However, our own survey data suggests that the substantial increases in the cost of raw materials over the past year are still passing through supply chains,

and therefore progress back to the Bank of England's 2% target is likely to be painfully slow. As a consequence, the cost pressures on both consumers and business is set to remain sizable over the near term, and together with faltering confidence levels, is likely to stifle overall economic activity.

"With inflation likely to remain above target for some time, the prospect of further rises in interest rates remains very much on the table. However, with economic conditions in the UK likely to weaken further, the most preferential option would be for the MPC to opt for a prolonged period of monetary stability and to keep interest rates steady over the near term. More also needs to be done to tackle the high upfront cost of doing business in the UK, including fundamental reform of the UK's business rates system."

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Human skull found by dog walker sheds light on Somerset's history



The skull was found by timber posts under the water, which are being tested to see if they are from the same historic period.

An important historical find has been made in Somerset when a Langport dog walker found a well-preserved human skull.

Roger Evans of Newtown found the skull along the banks of the River Sowy in March 2017. The skull was reported to the police and analysed. After several months the results revealed it belonged to a woman aged 45 or older during the late Iron Age (380-190BC) - several centuries before the first Roman invasion of Britain.

The discovery hinted there may be more clues in the area, so in December the Environment Agency reduced water levels where the remains were found so South West Heritage Trust and the agency's own archeologist could investigate.

No other human remains were found, but the archaeologists discovered that the skull lay close to a series of round, timber posts driven deep into the river bed. These may be the remnant of a causeway or raised walkway and more posts could still survive hidden in the mud. Radio carbon dating of the posts is being carried out to see if they and the skull are of the same date. Further groups of posts were seen further down the channel, suggesting other prehistoric wooden structures are present nearby.

The Environment Agency returned water levels to normal to provide a measure of protection to the timber posts and any other archaeological remains still in the channel.

Stephen Dean, Environment Agency archaeologist, said:

“The chance discovery on the banks of the River Sowy has shone fresh light on Somerset's hidden history. It has already added valuable information to the Somerset Historic Environment Record and reinforced our connections with the South West Heritage Trust.

“The Environment Agency's future work on the River Sowy, carried out on behalf of the Somerset Rivers Authority, will be informed by past discoveries such as these and will look to capture more of the area's rich historical and

archaeological story.

“The discovery of the Sowy Skull is also a poignant reminder that, in looking to the future, the work we do must be informed by an understanding and respect for Somerset's rich cultural and natural heritage. Only by understanding this heritage can we hope to leave it a condition fit for generations to come.”

Analysis by a human bone expert showed that the female skull suffered considerably from gum disease and tooth loss. Her diet included coarse material, which had unevenly worn her remaining teeth, and resulted in severe osteoarthritis in the joint of her right jaw. She had also suffered at least one episode of chronic illness or nutritional stress during childhood. The woman's head appears to have been deliberately removed at, or shortly after death.

Richard Brunning, the South West Heritage Trust archaeologist, said:

“Severed heads are not an unusual discovery for the Iron Age, but the placement of the skull in a wetland beside a wooden structure is very rare, possibly reflecting a practice of making ritual offerings in watery environments.”

North east rivers get fish stocks boost



Image shows Paul Frear releasing fish into the river

The Environment Agency has released thousands of fish into rivers in the north east during 2017 to boost stocks and help natural recovery

The Environment Agency has released more than 40,000 young fish into north east rivers during last year to give stocks a boost.

The fish – chub, dace, roach, bream, barbel, tench, grayling, crucian carp and rudd - are just some that were released right across the region during 2017.

And the Environment

Agency's north east fisheries team started off the new year by releasing 4,000 chub and 5,000 roach into the River Skerne at Darlington.

All the fish were reared at the Environment Agency's fish farm near Calverton, Nottinghamshire, using funding from rod licence sales.

Last year fish were released into rivers such as the Tees, Wear, Skerne, Gaunless, Browney, Blyth, Pont, Clow Beck and Langley Beck as well as Stillwater fisheries.

The work is part of the

Environment Agency's ongoing plan to develop and restore rivers and fisheries in the region, targeting those which have previously been affected by pollution or where barriers affect fish passage.

Paul Frear, Fisheries Officers for the Environment Agency in the north east, said:

"Restocking is one of many things we do together with our partners to develop fisheries, including reducing the impact of pollution, improving habitats and removing barriers to fish migration."

The Environment Agency releases fish into our waterways annually. Fisheries officers target fish stocking activity using data from national fish surveys to identify where there are problems with poor breeding and survival. Paul added:

"By releasing fish into the rivers it helps the process of natural recovery and development. We're pleased to be able to provide these young fish as part of our commitment to rod licence paying anglers. Restoration and the creation of new fisheries for all people to enjoy is a very important aspect of our work."

Many of our industrialised rivers have improved dramatically in water quality in the last 30 years and targeted and appropriate restocking has helped the restoration of natural fish stocks and viable fisheries.

Angling is a great way to keep healthy and enjoy the natural environment. All rod licence income is used to fund work to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries.

Fishing is free for children under 16, although those aged between 12 and 16 still need a junior licence. For anyone over 16, a full annual licence costs from just £30, with some short term and concessionary licences also available. You can buy your rod licence online at the [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website

Wales bans the intimate piercing of under 18s

Wales is the first country in the UK to introduce a nationwide ban on the intimate piercing of under 18s.

The new law, coming into force 1st Feb is making it an offence for piercing practitioners to arrange and/ or carry out an intimate piercing on under 18s.

The aim of the new law is to protect children and young people from the potential health harms which can be caused by an intimate piercing.

The change will come under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, prohibiting the intimate piercing of persons under the age of 18 in Wales. It will also be an offence to 'make arrangements' to perform an intimate piercing on a child or young person under the age of 18 in Wales.

The intimate piercing of children and young people under 18 could also be considered a child protection issue. By undergoing an intimate piercing procedure, young people under the age of 18 may be placed in a vulnerable position.

During a visit to Frontier Tattoo Parlour in Cardiff to discuss the new law, the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Frank Atherton said;

"In line with The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017, this new law is in place to ensure we can protect children and young people's health and wellbeing.

"It's concerning that a third of young people with intimate piercings have reported complications following a procedure. The child protection issues that

could also arise from this scenario highlight even further, the importance of implementing such a law.

"I hope this piece of legislation will help to reduce these issues, and that practitioners understand the importance of obtaining proof of age beforehand".

The Chief Dental Officer for Wales, Dr Colette Bridgman said:

"Tongue piercing can lead to lasting damage to teeth and gums, and can cause serious swelling in the mouth that can affect breathing. Many dentists in Wales have seen patients who have permanent harm following piercing and dental teams in Wales really welcome this new law".

A study in England found that amongst individuals aged 16-24 complications

were reported with around a third of all body piercings. The same study found a higher incidence of complications in connection with certain types of body piercings, including intimate piercings. Problems were most likely to be reported in the case of tongue piercing (50%), followed by piercings of the genitals (45%) and the nipples (38%).

As young people continue to grow during their teenage years, an intimate piercing performed at a young age could result in further complications arising as their bodies develop. Young people may also be less likely to have the experience or knowledge of how to clean or maintain an intimate piercing, leading to an increased risk of infection.

Local authority enforcement officers and Police Officers have received training in advance of the new law coming into effect to enable them to enforce the new legislation effectively.

Intimate piercing practitioners operating in Wales are encouraged to ensure they have a rigid system in place to help them confirm proof of age, and to obtain signed consent for each procedure to avoid prosecution and a fine.

Design Icon: Nike Air Max 1

By Paul Bazeley

Designed by Tinker Hatfield and released in 1987 the Nike Air Max 1 changed Nike and the sneaker world for good.

Before we get to the shoe itself, a bit of background is probably needed. Nike Air technology was created by Frank Rudy, a former NASA engineer. The technology meant that a urethane pouch filled with air could be used instead of the traditional EVA moulded soles that were seen at the time. The Air technology was first introduced into the sneaker world when Nike launched the Air Tailwind in 1978.

Hatfield had originally started working for Nike as an architect working on the shops but transitioned into sneaker design in 1985. A couple of years later he was tasked with designing the Air Max. The now famous story, if you're a sneaker head that is, is that Tinker was visiting

Paris and saw the Le Centres George Pompidou. The idea behind the controversial building, which was not liked by Parisians at the time, is that all of the inner workings are on the outside for all to see. Hatfield thought this idea could be used on the new shoe; a small window would be cut out of the midsole to reveal the Air technology inside.

When Hatfield took the design back to Nike and proposed the Air Max many thought he was mad, in fact, it is told that some tried to get him fired. Nevertheless, he stuck to his guns and with the help of David Forland, the director of cushioning innovation, who supported him the Air Max was born.

Tinker Hatfield also had one further hurdle to overcome, he wanted the shoe to stand out and proposed the now famous red, white and grey design. Some of the staff at Nike weren't sure however

and thought a blue colour would be more suited to the time. Eventually, Tinker got his way and the red, white and grey colourway is still one of the most sought after, although Nike did also release the blue, white and grey which is also seen as a classic colour choice for the shoe.

The trainer was released on the 26th March 1987 and was a success. That year Nike posted their best company figures. It also featured in Nike's first ever television advert which featured Michael Jordan and John McEnroe and had the Beatles song Revolution playing over the top. Since then the Air Max has gone from strength to strength, the Air Max brand continued to develop the shape and style releasing new Air Max's such as the 90, 180, 93, 95, 97, Plus, 360 and most recently the Vapour Max.

While other models are being released, the Air Max 1 has still continued to be popular.

In 2002 Nike did the first Air Max collaboration with Atmos a Japanese retailer, this was to be the first of many with some collaborations being so limited they can sell for thousands.

In 2017 the Air Max 1 celebrated its 30th birthday and Nike now dedicates a month-long celebration to Air Max every March. The Air Max 1 was a true game-changer in the sneaker world and helped put Nike on the map at a time when the company was struggling. The fact that although various iterations have been created under the Air Max name, the Air Max 1 is still sold in various colours with or without collaborators and shows the influence and the iconic design this shoe has. It transcends fashions and is loved and collected by thousands of people across the world. Here's to the next 30 years.



Tax-Free Childcare opens to all eligible families

Working parents could save thousands of pounds per year on childcare.

Tax-Free Childcare opens to all remaining eligible families: parents whose youngest child is under 12. The new scheme helps working parents with the cost of childcare.

It's quick and easy to apply, and parents could save thousands of pounds each year. For every £8 parents pay into their childcare account, the government will add an extra £2, up to £2,000 per child per year. HM Revenue and Customs has been gradually rolling out Tax-Free Childcare since April 2017.

The money can go towards a whole range of regulated childcare, including nurseries, childminders, after-school clubs and holiday clubs.

Parents, including the self-employed, can apply online for Tax-Free Childcare by visiting Childcare Choices. Parents can also access the government's childcare calculator through Childcare Choices, which helps parents to choose which government support is best for them.

Nicole, a mum of twins from Greater London, who uses Tax-Free Childcare, said:

"I was concerned about

the cost of childcare, because I don't get any other support, and I'm a single mum with 15-month-old twins.

Tax-Free Childcare has taken a big burden off my shoulders

"It's massively helped me: the extra money makes a huge difference, and I find the system really easy to use. It allows me to comfortably work full time, knowing that my children are being well looked after."

Elizabeth Truss, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said:

"Tax-Free Childcare will cut thousands of pounds from childcare bills and is good news for working parents.

"More parents will be

able to work if they want to and this demonstrates our commitment to helping families with the cost of living.

"All eligible parents with children under 12 can now apply through Childcare Choices and should take advantage of the available support."

Since opening the service, through which parents can apply for both Tax-Free Childcare and 30 hours free childcare, more than 340,000 families have successfully applied. Of these, more than 190,000 have a Tax-Free Childcare account.

The childcare service builds on the childcare support already available to thousands of families, including:

- 15 hours free childcare for families in England
- enhanced childcare support through Universal Credit
- tax credits for childcare

Dstl experts decode the science behind falling in love



Neuroscientists from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) explain the science of love on Valentine's Day.

Love is a well-studied, but little understood phenomena. Evolutionary psychology suggests that love is a way for us to attract and retain a mate enabling the reproduction and caring of offspring, but that doesn't explain how we fall in love or what it looks like.

Psychologist and

neuroscientists alike have attempted to quantify the reasons behind how we fall and stay in love; while there are many different psychological and neurological theories, love triads seem to be a common theme.

The filter theory (Kerckhoff and Davis, 1962) proposes that when we are looking to identify a suitable partner we filter down the population of potential mates based on three criteria.

Firstly, we consider social demographics; we are more likely to select a partner who has a similar background, this could be geographical closeness, closeness in social class,

ethnicity or education level. When we have filtered appropriate individuals we next refine our pool based on similarity in attitudes. Finally, we apply a filter to identify complimentary characteristics, we don't necessarily want someone who is just like us, but someone whose traits compliment ours (e.g. a creative person might come up with holiday ideas whilst their partner may be good at organising to help plan the trip).

A triangular theory of love (Sternberg, 1986) proposes that love can be understood in terms of three components; intimacy (e.g. feelings of closeness and forming bonds), passion (e.g. physical attraction and excitement) and decision/commitment (in the short-term we decide to love a partner and in the long

term the commitment to maintain that love). Whilst the three components common to loving relationships, each may present differently from one relationship to another, or over time within a given relationship resulting in unique relationships.

Neuroscientists would also claim that love can be broken down into three aspects. When an individual falls in love there is an increase in the activity of brain regions that contains high concentration of dopamine which is associated with reward, desire, addition and euphoric states. Conversely, there is a decrease in activity of the amygdala, normally this is engaged during fearful situations this decrease implies a lessening of fear. Concurrently there is a decrease in frontal cortex activity resulting in a relaxed judgement.

Dstl has a wide variety of jobs for scientists, including our neuroscientists, who work on solutions for Defence and Security and for keeping people safe in the UK and abroad.

BCC: Inflationary pressures beginning to ease



Suren Thiru, Head of Economics and Business Finance at British Chambers of Commerce

Commenting on the inflation statistics for January 2018, published by the Office for National Statistics, Suren Thiru, Head of Economics at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said:

“Inflation was unchanged in

January, as a smaller rise in motor fuel prices helped to keep a lid on overall UK price growth. The slowing growth in producer prices points to an easing of inflationary pressures further down the supply chain, which suggests that inflation is likely to drift downwards over the coming months.

“The path of inflation over the next year is likely to be determined by the extent to which more subdued UK economic growth is offset by inflationary pressure from rising global commodity prices. Against this backdrop, it remains probable that while inflation will continue to drift downwards, it’s likely to remain above the Bank

of England’s 2% inflation target for some time to come.

“Nonetheless, with inflation now on a downward trajectory, this should give the Bank of England enough wriggle room to keep interest rates on hold for longer than implied by the hawkish tone of their latest inflation report, particularly if economic conditions weaken as we expect.

“We would urge the MPC to proceed with caution on raising rates, to avoid dampening business activity and wider economic growth. More must also be done to kickstart business investment, including addressing the upfront cost of doing business in the UK.”

Immigration figures show chaos and confusion over Brexit

Immigration figures announced show that 47,000 fewer EU nationals came to live in the UK, and that 28,000 EU nationals departed our shores, between the period of September 2016 to September 2017.

This continued chaos and confusion over Brexit coming from the Government is damaging our economy and our communities.

EU nationals who have made Britain their home are leaving and talented individuals from the EU are clearly looking elsewhere to study, work or invest.

The Government should hang its head in shame for overseeing this Brexodus which will no doubt leave us poorer.

The British public has made it clear that it wants EU citizens who have made the UK their home to stay. The Liberal Democrats are clear that we value them and their contribution.

It is now time that Theresa May and her Ministers guaranteed their rights and put an end to this uncertainty.

World is failing newborns; UNICEF says global mortality rates remain ‘alarmingly high’

Newborns are dying at “alarmingly high” rates in countries that are poor, conflict-ridden or have weak institutions, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said Tuesday in a new report, which reveals that babies born in these places are 50 times more likely to die in the first month of life than those born in some wealthier nations.

“Every year, 2.6 million newborns around the world do not survive their first month of life. One million of them die the day they are born,” said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

“We know we can save the vast majority of these babies with affordable, quality health care solutions for every mother and every newborn. Just a few small

steps from all of us can help ensure the first small steps of each of these young lives,” she added.



Newborn twin babies at Myanmar Refugee Camp in Bangladesh, born to their mother nine days ago after she fled her home in Myanmar.

According to the report, babies born in Japan, Iceland and Singapore have the best chance at survival, while newborns in Pakistan, the Central African Republic and Afghanistan face the worst odds.

In Japan, one in 1,111 newborn babies die in the first month of life while in Pakistan, the ratio is one in 22.

Globally, in low-income countries, the average newborn mortality rate is 27 deaths per 1,000 births, the report says. In high-income countries, that rate is 3 deaths per 1,000.

The report also notes that 8 of the 10 most dangerous places to be born are in sub-Saharan Africa, where pregnant women are much less likely to receive assistance during delivery due to poverty, conflict and weak institutions. If every country brought its newborn mortality rate down to the high-income average by 2030, 16 million lives could be saved.

More than 80 per cent of newborn deaths are due to prematurity, complications during birth or infections such as pneumonia and sepsis, the report says.

“Given that the majority of these deaths are preventable, clearly, we are failing the world’s poorest babies,” Ms. Fore said.

These deaths can be prevented with access to well-trained midwives, along with proven solutions like clean water, disinfectants, breastfeeding within the first hour, skin-to-skin contact and good nutrition.

However, a shortage of well-trained health workers and midwives means that thousands don’t receive the life-saving support they need to survive. For example, while in Norway there are 218 doctors, nurses and midwives to serve 10,000 people, that ratio is one per 10,000 in Somalia.

This month, UNICEF is launching Every Child ALIVE, a global campaign to demand and deliver solutions on behalf of the world’s newborns.

UK ranked 8th least corrupt country in the world

Transparency International has ranked the UK as one of the 8th least corrupt countries in the world, following increased action to tackle corruption both at home and abroad.

The Transparency International index (published 21 February), drawn up by the leading civil society organisation fighting corruption worldwide, ranks 180 countries on how corrupt a country's public sector is viewed as. In the last year, the UK has moved 2 places from 10th least corrupt in the world to joint 8th.

Drawing on evidence from 13 surveys of business people and expert assessments, the index analysis highlights links between corruption, press

freedom and the decline of civil liberties around the world.

Security Minister Ben



Minister of State for Security and Economic Crime
The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP

Wallace said:

“I am pleased that Transparency International has ranked UK as one of the least corrupt countries in the world. Our improved position clearly reflects the proactive role this government has taken to combat corruption both at

home and abroad.

“But we are not complacent and recognise there is more to do. That is why we published the UK’s first anti-corruption strategy which establishes an ambitious longer-term commitment to tackle corruption.

“I am determined that law enforcement and the government should work together to drive out dirty money and its corrupting effect.”

The UK is making concerted efforts to tackle corruption and published the first UK anti-corruption strategy in December 2017. The strategy contains over 100 fully-resourced commitments to guide government efforts and establishes a 5-year plan to reduce corruption.

The strategy builds upon the UK’s strong anti-corruption drive. The UK: was the first G20 country to publish the details of who owns and controls UK companies; was the first G7 country to undergo an international monetary fund fiscal transparency evaluation; and, in 2017, passed the Criminal Finances Act which established new anti-corruption tools and powers such as Unexplained Wealth Orders. These investigative orders require certain individuals - either politically exposed persons or individuals reasonably suspected of involvement with or connected to serious and organised crime - to explain the source of their wealth, supporting the UK’s effort to tackle corruption.

Alongside the department’s efforts, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of John Penrose MP as the new anti-corruption champion. In his role, Mr Penrose will be responsible for challenging and supporting the government in implementing the strategy, as well as promoting the UK’s response to corruption both domestically and internationally.

New measures to boost cyber security in millions of internet-connected devices

Manufacturers of 'smart' devices will be expected to build-in tough new security measures that last the lifetime of the product

BOSSES behind 'smart' devices such as televisions, toys and speakers found in millions of homes will be expected to build-in tough new security measures that last the lifetime of the product, as part of plans to keep the nation safe from the increasing cyber threat.

Estimates show every household in the UK owns at least 10 internet connected devices and this is expected to increase to 15 devices by 2020, meaning there may be more than 420 million in use across the country within three years.

Poorly secured devices threaten individuals' online security, privacy, safety, and could be exploited as part

of large-scale cyber attacks. Recent high-profile breaches putting people's data and security at risk include attacks on smart watches, CCTV cameras and children's dolls.

Developed in

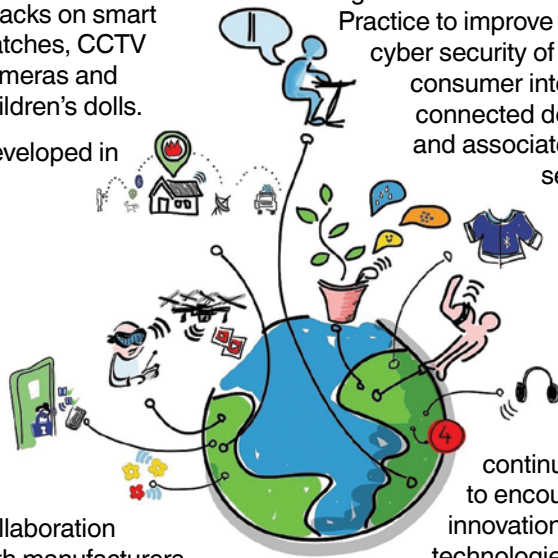
collaboration with manufacturers, retailers and the National Cyber Security Centre, the Government's Secure by Design review lays out plans to embed security in the design process rather than bolt them on as an

afterthought.

The Government will work with industry to implement a rigorous new Code Of Practice to improve the cyber security of consumer internet-connected devices and associated services while

continuing to encourage innovation in new technologies.

Speaking ahead of a launch event at consumer champion Which? headquarters, Margot James, Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries, said:



“We want everyone to benefit from the huge potential of internet-connected devices and it is important they are safe and have a positive impact on people’s lives. We have worked alongside industry to develop a tough new set of rules so strong security measures are built into everyday technology from the moment it is developed.

“This will help ensure that we have the right rules and frameworks in place to protect individuals and that the UK continues to be a world-leading, innovation-friendly digital economy.”

Dr Ian Levy, the NCSC’s Technical Director, said:

“The NCSC is committed to ensuring the UK has the best security it can, and stop people being expected to make impossible safety judgements with no useful information.

“We are pleased to have worked with DCMS on this vital review, and hope its legacy will be a government ‘kitemark’ clearly explaining the security promises and effective lifespan of products.

“Shoppers should be given high quality information to make choices at the counter. We manage it with fat content of food and this is the start of doing the same for the cyber security of technology products.”

March

The Secure by Design report outlines practical steps for manufacturers, service providers and developers. This will encourage firms to make sure:

- All passwords on new devices and products are unique and not resettable to a factory default, such as 'admin';
- They have a vulnerability policy and public point of contact so security researchers and others can report issues immediately and they are quickly acted upon;
- Sensitive data which is transmitted over apps or products is encrypted;
- Software is automatically updated and there is clear guidance on updates to customers;
- It is easy for consumers to delete personal data on devices and products;
- Installation and maintenance of devices is easy.

Alongside these measures for 'Internet of Things' manufacturers, the report

proposes developing a product labelling scheme so consumers are aware of a product's security features at the point of purchase. The Government will work closely with retailers and consumer organisations to provide advice and support.

Alex Neill, Which? Managing Director of Home Products and Services, said:

"With connected devices becoming increasingly popular, it's vital that consumers are not exposed to the risk of cyber-attacks through products that are left vulnerable through manufacturers' poor design and production.

"Companies must ensure that the safety of their customers is the absolute priority when 'smart' products are designed. If strong security standards are not already in place when these products hit the shelves, then they should not be sold."

Julian David, CEO of TechUK said:

"The opportunities created by the Internet of Things are now becoming clear. It offers consumers and citizens greater empowerment and control over their lifestyles, from managing energy consumption at home to having peace of mind that a frail relative is going about their normal routine.

"However, these opportunities also bring risk and it is important that the IoT market now matures in a sensible and productive way, with security embedded at the design stage. This project is the start of that maturity. Industry has been keen to engage in the review and demonstrate what is best practice. It is important that companies throughout the supply chain now adopt and build on this Code of Practice to build the trust required to drive widespread take-up of the IoT."

Mark Hughes, CEO, BT Security:

"BT shares the Government's ambition to make the UK the

safest place to work and do business online. We are proud to have played a key advisory role in the development of the draft Code of Practice, having shared our technical insight with the Government in our capacity as a global network operator, UK broadband provider and as a global provider of cyber security and IoT services.

"From the development of the world's first Cleanfeed filter to block child abuse images, free parental controls for broadband products and devices, to warning or blocking our customers from known malware and phishing sites, BT has been at the forefront of keeping consumers and families safe online for many years. BT is actively involved in driving standards, interoperability and security across the IoT market and will continue to provide guidance to the Government and industry around best practice for securing internet connected devices.

This initiative is a key part of the Government's five-year, £1.9 billion National Cyber Security Strategy which is making the UK the most secure place in the world to live and do business online.

Image by Wilgengebroad on Flickr [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Electric Cars: will they really drive us forward?

By Paul Bazeley



All-electric cars charging - Source: Wikipedia, photograph by JuergenG

Last year it was announced that by the year 2040 all new cars sold will be electric in a bid to tackle air pollution. 2017 saw a rise in the sale of electric vehicles and a steep decline in the sales of diesel cars. A question remains, however, are electric cars really the answer to our problems?

More and more companies are now coming out with electric and hybrid cars and Volvo even announced that by 2019 all its cars will have an electric motor. On the face of it, this seems like a great move, in terms of the planet its long been reported that using petrol and diesel cars is damaging in more than one way.

Nevertheless, there are still many concerns with electric vehicles.

Firstly, there is the issue of charging points. While service stations and offices are beginning to install them research showed that by 2020 the UK will have 10 electric cars to one charging point. This news is based on the UK having a charging point for every 40km of road which is above the Brussels expectation of one every 65km by 2025. Clearly, this will have to change and based on sales of electric cars change quickly.

A second problem is the cost to fix these new vehicles. People tinkering with their cars have dramatically dropped over recent years with the amount of technology placed in them and with electric cars, this will most likely drop further. Apart from swapping a bulb and

changing a flat tyre you will likely have to take it to a garage, and that probably won't be the garage down the road from you as they won't have the technology to fix these cars, you'll be off to the dealership.

The batteries are also a problem, the cost of them is high and the range of them is not great. Not only could the cost be a problem for some at the beginning, further down the road when the battery then needs to be replaced this could be another expensive cost. The range is also a big issue and if the car can't get you to your destination on one charge that could be a bit of a problem. If you then factor in time for charging, not only could you be sitting at a service station for hours, you may also have to queue with everyone else for the small number of charging points if the research into charging points above is true.

Another point raised is that electric cars may not be as good for the environment as we think. The production of the cars can be energy and resource intensive. When they are finally on the road they need to be powered and depending on where that power is coming from could make big differences to how green the cars actually are.

Finally, one other factor that does not seem to be raised often is that most electric cars other than the Tesla Model S are pretty ugly. Why do car manufacturers seem to think that consumers who want to buy electric cars want something that looks like it has come out from the prop warehouse of a Tron film? Ok, maybe the BMW i8 isn't a bad looking car if you ignore the weird blue colour it uses, maybe that's to represent electricity, but even the cars that don't use weird colours instead have weird angle shapes or are just downright horrible.

While reading through the problems, it looks as though our reliance on electric cars being our saviour may be a mistake although there are signs that it still could be the best move for the planet. The charging port problem may be addressed thanks to petrol stations already fitting charging points, there is talk of lampposts having

charging points and there is also the idea of swapping the batteries over when one is flat.

In terms of costs for batteries and fixes, like all technology, as it becomes more prevalent the cost goes down. The technology will also keep getting better and ranges will become longer and longer. We have to remember that there are elements of trial and error in all technology, but they will be improved and fixed as time goes on.

This theory is the same for the environmental problems, as more people buy electric cars the cost to produce them will go down



The MINI Electric concept car - Source: www.mini.co.uk

and the environmental impact will significantly decrease. The benefits on air pollution particularly in city areas will make a large impact and research by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory concluded that if we didn't use petrol and diesel cars and instead used hybrids and electric vehicles which were recharged by the existing utility grid there would be a 40% reduction in CO2 emissions.

Also, renewable energy sources are becoming more effective. Wind, solar and wave energy have technology that is becoming cheaper and more efficient.

With this in mind, the electricity we create could become greener and the cars we drive would also be greener.

Although electric cars do tend to veer on the weirder looking side of the road, the hybrid market has shown that cars we are used to seeing every day, like a Volkswagen Golf, can remain the same and be more efficient. Surely it's just a matter of time until the electric car world does the same. In fact at the time of writing, Mini had just produced a classic looking Mini that was an electric car but unfortunately, there are no plans to produce this car. I'd buy one, and even though it was more of a marketing strategy it shows that standard cars can look the same and be electric.

In conclusion, there may be many issues facing electric cars as they become more and more popular, but the technology will catch up to modern day needs and the processes will become more efficient and greener as time goes on. Like all new technology it doesn't happen overnight, but by 2040 the teething problems should be eliminated and the electric car could be the beginning of a new era in the way we live our lives and look after our planet.

Record Attendance at the 2018 London Fabric Show

The inclement weather did not prevent an 18% increase in visitors make the trip to Chelsea FC for the fourth BFM hosted event at the venue on 26th and 27th February.

There was a record attendance on both days, particularly the first day with visitor numbers up by 12% at well over 200.

It is believed that the number of visitors would have been even higher had the weather not impacted on the event, particularly on the second day. Several registered visitors who were unable to get to Chelsea during the show contacted the BFM requesting exhibitor product and contact information.

Visitors saw 37 of Europe's finest fabric producers and suppliers show their classic collections and new designs to the majority of the UK's upholstery industry, many of the UK's premier retail groups and furniture groups, and buyers of soft furnishings from the hotel and leisure industry.

The renowned Belgian mills, were especially pleased with the show with many reporting excellent orders. Koen Mortier from Escolys saying "It has been a very good show for us, we have seen most of our very valued UK customers and met some new ones too."

Many visitors also reported satisfaction with the event. Kai Winders from

Steinhoff said, "This is a great show, wonderful that it has expanded over the years and it is good to have it in the UK, it means not too much time out of the office." Alston Upholstery's Matthew Cave said "Great exhibition, plenty to see, easy to visit and knowledgeable exhibitors."

Jackie Bazeley, MD to the BFM who organised and hosted the event, reported that she had received many compliments from both visitors and exhibitors and said, "Prior to the start of the show we thought that the weather might prevent visitors from attending, while it clearly had an effect, it did not stop the majority from getting to Chelsea. I have had many positive comments from visitors about the quality

of the exhibitors and the fabrics and finishes they showed, along with a great number of compliments from both our returning and new exhibitors. I already have a waiting list of companies eager to exhibit and we are already looking forward to another successful event in 2019."



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www.londonfabricshow.co.uk
or contact Mike Diamond by email to: mikediamond@bfm.org.uk

welters® Heritage Galloway cattle breeding programme



Blizzard conditions ensue as the naturally insulated heifers patiently await insemination

March 2018 began with selected heifers from **welters®** award winning Galloway cattle herds undergoing artificial insemination (AI) procedures in readiness for calving in late Summer.

This breeding programme

is an important part of **welters®** ongoing commitment to protecting native species and resources in the UK.

The process is carried out by a skilled AI technician to ensure a good success rate within the herd.

A fully mature heifer will normally be in estrus or 'heat' every 18-24 days and it takes an experienced herdsman to spot when the cow is displaying heat signals and to plan the AI procedure accordingly.

Timing is crucial as the heifer will begin ovulation towards the end of the heat cycle, which only provides a short window of 12-18 hours to inseminate.

With such a time-critical process, there can be no delays and even sub-zero temperatures, the worst winter in decades and the coldest March on record will not prevent the **welters®** intrepid and dedicated farm staff from completing this important work.

The farm is looking forward to the new additions joining the herd later in the year, ensuring good breeding stock for the future.



AI technician performing the delicate insemination process



The procedure is over quickly and is not stressful for the animal

Threat from Northern Ireland-related terrorism to Great Britain



The Security Service, MI5 has reduced the threat level to Great Britain from Northern Ireland-related terrorism from substantial to moderate.

The Security Service reduced the threat level to Great Britain from Northern Ireland-related terrorism from substantial to moderate. This means that a terrorist attack is possible, but not likely.

In a written statement to Parliament, the Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

“Despite the change which has been made, there remains a real and serious threat against the United Kingdom from terrorism and I would ask the public to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police regardless of the threat level.

“The decision to change this threat level is taken by the Security Service independently of ministers and is based on the very latest intelligence, considering factors such as capability, intent and timescale. Threat levels are kept under constant review.”

The threat level to the UK from international terrorism remains at SEVERE, and the threat level to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism

also remains at SEVERE, meaning that an attack is highly likely.

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack. They are a tool for security practitioners working across different sectors and the police to use in determining what protective security response may be required.

They also keep the public informed and give context to the protective security measures encountered every day.

There is more information about terrorism threat levels in the UK on the MI5 website.

welters® Windsor Chairs

The company is celebrating its return to the ‘of the moment’ Windsor Chair design with a comprehensive and all embracing range of furniture elements.



Record-breaking turbines leave Wylfa



The last remaining Proteus Gas Turbines in use anywhere in the world were stood down on 20 January 2018 after 47 years of faithful service

The last working Rolls-Royce Proteus Gas Turbines anywhere in the world are set to leave the former Wylfa nuclear power station on Anglesey.

Wylfa is seeking a new home for 5 ageing back-up generators whose illustrious cousin, the Rolls-Royce Proteus Gas Turbine Generator,

famously powered Donald Campbell's Bluebird CN7 as it smashed the world land speed record in 1964.

The first 4 generators, each capable of 3MW output, provided essential standby electricity in the event that normal supplies were lost.

In 1983, a fifth Proteus turbine was installed to provide additional power

to Wylfa's Secondary Dry Store Cells, used to hold spent nuclear fuel after being removed from the reactors.

They were believed to be the last remaining Proteus Gas Turbines in use anywhere in the world but, after 47 years of faithful service, they were stood down on 20 January 2018.

When electricity generation at Wylfa ended in 2015 the site's Electrical Overlay System was capable of providing back-up electricity supplies and there was no further need for the gas turbines.

The Proteus engine has a distinguished history: having seen naval service in fast torpedo boats, powered the Bluebird CN7 car used by Donald Campbell to break the world land speed record in 1964, powered cross-channel hovercraft until

2000 and provided essential supplies to Magnox's Oldbury Power Station in Gloucestershire.

The gas turbines will be disconnected and all potential hazards removed, such as oils and batteries, before the asset disposals team sets about finding them a new home.



Wylfa Nuclear Power Station (Welsh: Atomfa'r Wylfa) is a former Magnox power station situated west of Cemaes Bay on the island of Anglesey, North Wales. The last reactor was switched off on 30 December 2015 so ending 44 years of operation at the site.

Law change could lead to a smarter generation of motorway users



Learner drivers about to take their driving test could get their first taste of motorway driving after a change in the law.

Highways England is predicting a smarter generation of motorway road users following a law change allowing learner drivers about to take their driving test to get their first taste of motorway driving.

In the past learner drivers' first experience of driving at higher speeds had been limited to using dual carriageways and only when they had passed their

driving test could they get their first experiences of driving on a motorway.

For some newly passed and inexperienced drivers this could prove to be a daunting and often frightening experience.

Now under a change to the law from June 2018, learners will be allowed to drive on motorways with an approved driving instructor (ADI) using a dual controlled car displaying L plates.

Highways England, the body responsible for Britain's motorways and

strategic A roads, says this law change will help develop a smarter generation of motorway road users.

It will allow approved driving instructors (ADI) to teach learners about the specific set of skills associated with using the motorways safely in a practical situation.

Head of Road Safety at Highways England, Richard Leonard, said:

"Safety is our number one priority and we welcome this change which will help equip learner drivers to drive safely on motorways when they have passed their tests.

"We look forward to supporting the motorway drivers of tomorrow as they develop these new driving skills and get invaluable practical knowledge and experience of using motorways."

The changes will allow learner drivers to:

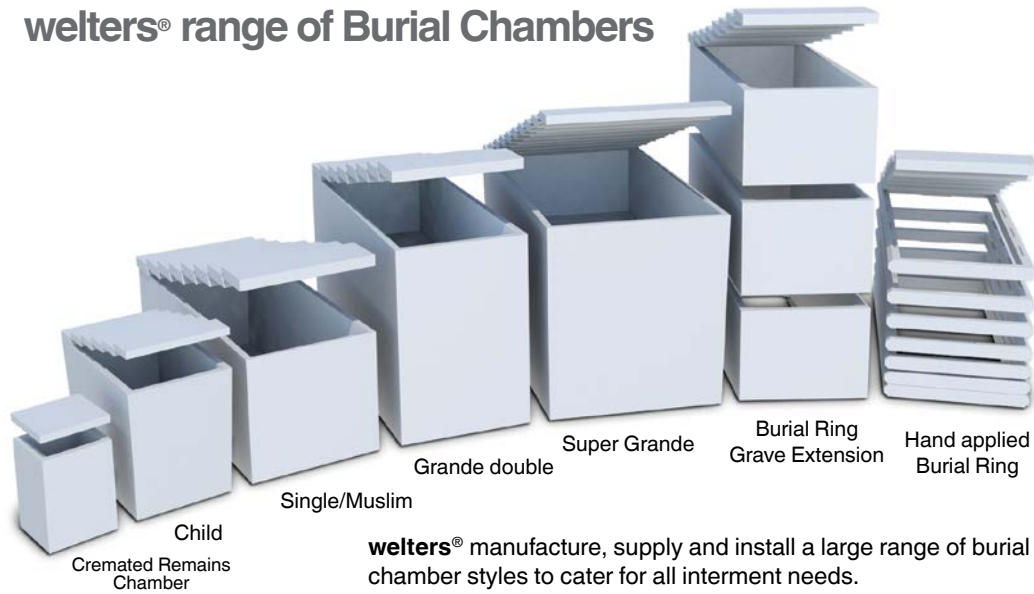
- get broader driving experience before taking their driving test
- get training on how to join and leave the motorway, overtake and use lanes correctly
- practise driving at higher speeds
- put their theoretical knowledge into practice

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Chief Executive, Gareth Llewellyn, said:

"By allowing learners to have lessons on motorways, we are modernising driver training and making sure learners get the skills and experience they need to drive on fast, busy roads."

The Department for Transport consulted on these changes in December 2016. They received wide support from learner drivers, the driver training industry and road safety organisations and the general public. These changes apply to England, Wales and Scotland only.

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Employment rate reaches joint record high

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics show that 402,000 more people have moved into employment in the last year.

The unemployment rate (4.3%) has not been lower since 1975, and the number of people out of work is down by 127,000 compared to a year ago.

The number of people not working and not looking for work fell by 158,000 on the year. The rate has not been lower since records began.

Since 2010, over 70% of employment growth has been in permanent roles, with around 70% in higher skilled work.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Esther McVey said:

“Getting a job means securing an income for a family and the chance to build a better future. That’s

why up and down the country we are doing all we can to help people into work.

“And from next month, we’ll be taking thousands more people out of paying tax and also increasing the National Living Wage, benefiting those on the lowest pay and making sure they keep more of what they earn.

“In fact by raising the National Living Wage we have ensured that the lowest earners have seen their wages grow by almost 7% above inflation since 2015.”

The amount of money people can earn before they start paying income tax will rise in April 2018 from £11,500 to £11,850. From 1 April 2018, the National Living Wage – the minimum paid to employees aged over 25 – will rise from £7.50 an hour to £7.83,

equating to a £600 annual pay rise for full-time workers on basic pay.

This comes as we have reformed welfare to make work pay, backed businesses to take more people on, and built a stronger, fairer economy.

But we want to help even more people benefit from a well-paid job. That’s why we are:

- improving the welfare system with Universal Credit, which helps people move into work faster and to stay in work longer than under the old system
- introducing a modern Industrial strategy to help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs in every part of the UK
- helping people stay in work longer with our Fuller Working Lives strategy, which supports employers

to recruit, re-train and retain older workers

- tackling inequalities in employment highlighted by the Race Disparity Audit, through targeted support in 20 areas around the country and £90 million announced by the Prime Minister to help young people

The figures also show:

- since 2010, the number of people in employment has increased by around 3.2 million
- 83.4% of employment is in the private sector, with 16.6% in the public sector
- the female employment rate is at a record high of 70.9%, with over 15 million women in work – a rise of 234,000 on the year

Separate figures showed that 770,000 people are now on Universal Credit as the rollout of the new benefit continues. Of these, 39% were in employment (300,000). Through Universal Credit, people are keeping more of their earnings as their Universal Credit payment gradually adjusts when their income climbs.

BCC comments on labour market statistics March 2018



Suren Thiru
Head of Economics and
Business Finance

Commenting on the labour market figures for March 2018, published by the ONS, Suren Thiru, Head of Economics at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), said:

“The strong rise in employment, together with the unemployment rate dropping back to 4.3%, confirms that the labour market remains a major bright spot for the UK economy.

“The pick-up in wage growth is welcome, and coupled with slowing inflation, means that the squeeze on household spending is easing. While regular real wage growth is now likely return to positive territory sooner rather than later, the extent to which pay growth can be kept sustainably above price growth will largely be determined by the UK’s ability to deliver sustainable increases in productivity. Notably, the rise in wage growth also increases the likelihood of an interest rate rise this year.

“It is concerning that the number of vacancies remains at a record high, a further indication of the chronic skills shortage. This mirrors the BCC’s quarterly economic survey, which

confirms that recruitment difficulties for UK firms are at historically high levels.

“More must be done to support firms looking to recruit and grow their business, including easing upfront business costs and delivering a future immigration regime that supports the needs of the UK economy.”

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) sits at the heart of a powerful network of 52 Accredited Chambers of Commerce across the UK, representing thousands of businesses of all sizes and within all sectors. Our Global Business Network connects exporters with nearly 40 markets around the world.

Blue Passports should be made in the UK



East Midlands MEP Jonathan Bullock said he was disappointed the new post-Brexit passports may not be made in the UK.

The British firm, which has made the UK’s passports for ten years, wants answers from the Government on reports it is set to award the contract for the new blue passports to a Franco-Dutch company.

Mr Bullock said: “The new blue passport is one symbol of us voting to leave the EU. It is disappointing they look likely to be made abroad and they should be made in this country for security reasons.

“Of course, this also means the loss of business to the current makers of the passports – a British company. I hope the Government will look at this again.”

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National News Headlines January 2018

1st January

- Students set to be left off net migration total
- Corbyn warns he'll clobber the middle class on tax to pay for public services
- Liverpool Echo Arena car park fire destroys 1,400 vehicles

2nd January

- Tories warn May not to budge over Brexit giveaways
- Rail fare rises: Commuters 'priced off' UK trains, protestors say
- 11,000 homes left empty for over a decade

3rd January

- Crowded hospitals 'put patients at risk'
- Business urges PM to make U-turn on foreign students
- Modern slaves are staffing nail bars across the UK, police warn as gang jailed

4th January

- Schools 'should help children with social media risk'
- Farmers to be paid for improving public access
- Bannon accuses Trump's son of treason

5th January

- Blair blasted over his bid to sabotage Brexit
- Call for 25p 'latte levy' on cups to pay for recycling
- UK car sales see first drop for six years

6th January

- Brexit boost as UK's output hits 6-year high
- All coal-fired power to switch off by 2025
- Phones fuel sharp rise in exam cheating



National News Headlines January 2018

7th January

- May set to axe 'pale and stale' Ministers
- Trump: 'I am a very stable genius'
- Companies to face huge new VAT burden after Brexit

8th January

- Mothercare issues profit warning as Christmas sales sink
- 'Inept, hopeless and confused': Inside the court of the Trump Tudors
- Senior BBC journalist quits her post over 'illegal' pay gap

9th January

- Theresa May's Cabinet meets as reshuffle continues
- Storm Eleanor leaves 'tidal wave of waste' in Cornwall
- Couple plotted Christmas bomb carnage

10th January

- North and South Korea to thaw relations over Winter Olympics
- Denying City a trade deal 'will backfire on EU'
- Flu sparks new crisis in schools

11th January

- Environment strategy aims to stop needless plastic waste
- Corbyn campaigners shut youth wing 'over Facebook attacks on moderate MPs'
- Sainsbury's celebrates record Christmas figures

12th January

- Rise up and demand more pay, Tory Ruth tells women
- Illegal migrants' accounts to be frozen
- Construction giant to beg Whitehall for huge bailout



National News Headlines January 2018

13th January

- Chemists run short of flu jab
- Now rail passengers face weekend of engineering chaos after days of strikes
- Trump's remarks 'racist and shameful'

14th January

- Our historic Brexit vote could be reversed, admits Farage
- Tories too shy to fight Left online, warns chief
- Flu vaccine shunned by 3m people deemed most at risk

15th January

- Workers 'are missing out on pensions perk'
- Why was failing building giant given £1.5bn of State contracts?
- Carillion talks fail to provide rescue plan

16th January

- Carillion collapse has put 20,000 jobs at risk
- Ukip chief 'must resign' over race slur girlfriend
- Macron claims victory in battle over border checks at Calais

17th January

- Disbelief as EU chief begs UK: Please don't go
- Now EU joins Mail's drive to tackle the plastic menace
- Inflation eases but prices still outpace wages

18th January

- Number of EU nurses halved after language tests got harder
- UK pledges extra £44m for Channel border security
- Irish PM warns UK to honour border pledges



National News Headlines January 2018

19th January

- MPs' fury at statue snub for Thatcher
- Tuition fees could be cut as minister plans rethink
- Boris Johnson suggests 'bridge' between UK and France

20th January

- Scientists hail single blood test for cancer
- UK could rejoin EU in future, says May deputy
- Chime of the church bells protected in planning laws

21st January

- Poll shows Trump not welcome here
- May: I will fine greedy bosses who betray their workers
- We should welcome Trump visit says Boris

22nd January

- Health alert as 1 million abuse steroids in Britain
- Ukip in crisis after leader loses vote of confidence
- We should all be concerned that police hold mugshots of 20 million of us

23rd January

- Major UK cyber attack is 'when, not if', says security chief
- Recladding of risky towers barely begun
- UK 'has already agreed in principle' with EU to Norway style transition

24th January

- Outcry as Thatcher statue plan is ditched
- Now our lamp-posts will become masts to boost mobiles
- Hundreds of pupils facing transfer over school repairs



National News Headlines February 2018

1st February

- Brexit: Theresa May to fight EU transition residency plan
- Crossrail chiefs warn that £14bn project could blow its budget and open late
- MPs vote to leave Westminster for urgent six-year restoration

2nd February

- We're richer than ever thanks to our property and pensions
- Theresa May under pressure over Brexit position
- Former defence chiefs tell of despair over poor handling of MoD budget

3rd February

- Carillion collapse: UK puts up £100m to back Carillion contractor loans
- Russian oligarchs in UK told to explain luxury lifestyles
- Half of all food bought in UK is ultra-processed

4th February

- PM's new youth wing in chaos as leader is suspended for 'assault'
- Brexit attacks on civil service 'are worthy of 1930s Germany'
- May told: Don't let Hammond ruin Brexit

5th February

- Migrants made to pay an extra £200 a year for care on the NHS
- Downing Street insists UK will leave customs union
- Lloyds Bank in Bitcoin crackdown

6th February

- Suffragettes 'should be pardoned'
- Barnier warns UK on trade barriers
- I'm proud of NHS, May says after Trump attack



National News Headlines February 2018

7th February

- City panic-selling wipes £50bn from top British shares
- Tesco faces record £4bn equal pay claim
- Ireland's push for border deal threatens to hit Brexit talks

8th February

- Council tax hikes planned 'across England'
- Man who 'broke the Bank of England' backing secret plot to thwart Brexit
- One in five staff sexually harassed in Parliament

9th February

- Corbyn 'told EU he backs customs union'
- Human eggs grown in lab for the first time
- Interest rate rises are set to accelerate

10th February

- Government reviews Oxfam relationship over Haiti prostitute claims
- Isis militants hunted in Syria after intelligence extracted from UK jihadist
- Sister act: North Korean leader keeps it in the family

11th February

- Soros hits back over 'toxic' attacks on his pledge to stop Brexit
- Private water payouts are a public scandal says Labour
- Oxfam faces fresh claims over its staff paying for sex

12th February

- London City Airport shut as WW2 bomb found in Thames
- Ministers to investigate aid abuse 'cover-up'
- Drink-related hospital admissions at record high



National News Headlines February 2018

13th February

- May calls for one last push on Stormont deal
- Commonwealth in secret succession plans
- Rail firms to face green targets for franchise bids

14th February

- Gales, floods and then polar blast on the way
- Boris Johnson: Brexit is a reason for hope not fear
- 'Disappointing' inflation figures fuel fears that Bank will raise interest rates

15th February

- End of era in South Africa as Zuma finally agrees to quit
- DUP call for direct rule leaves May facing crisis
- Teachers need a ruling on hijabs, says former Ofsted chief

16th February

- Voting age could be cut to 16 before next general election, says senior Tory
- Middle-class millennials priced out of housing
- Developers 'hoard' land for 420,000 new homes

17th February

- Summer holiday boost as sterling powers upwards
- Minister: It's wrong head was abused for hijab ban... schools must set rules
- German anger as May warns: 'We won't wait for EU'

18th February

- Corbyn under pressure to shift Brexit stance
- Shock figures reveal the dire state of Britain's failing prisons
- Sheep that can grow human organs created in the lab



National News Headlines February 2018

19th February

- 'Soft' degrees could cost less in review of university funding
- Pensioners may get tax break to pay for care
- Chill to last until Easter

20th February

- Foreign aid 'makes the poor dependent'
- Oxfam boss Mark Goldring 'sorry' over Haiti scandal
- Punish May at local polls, Mayor urges EU citizens

21st February

- Rattled Corbyn's threat to media as he is urged to release spy files
- Teachers at school that banned hijab were failed by council, say inspectors
- May abandons plans for House of Lords reforms

22nd February

- EU workers on rise despite Brexit vote
- Tory jitters exposed as May pushes for Brexit agreement
- More than a quarter of Scots 'don't place trust in charities'

23rd February

- Outrage as university chiefs' pay hits £290k
- RBS reports first profit in 10 years
- Charity chief forced to resign over inappropriate behaviour

24th February

- 700 girls and women were victims of sex abuse gangs
- Corbyn has questions to answer, says ex-mi6 chief
- A smooth Brexit would be in Europe's interest too



25th February

- Labour alliance piles pressure on Corbyn over Brexit stance
- Brexit trade deals 'could be ruined by SNP'
- Tory MP apologises to Corbyn for spy claim

26th February

- Cap on prices to cut energy bills for 11m homes
- Jeremy Corbyn setting out Labour's Brexit plans
- Scotland to set 50p minimum unit price for alcohol

27th February

- Trust in foreign aid is damaged says Mordaunt
- Stalin apologist is Corbyn's new aide
- Far-right terror threat growing, says police chief

28th February

- Travel warnings as further heavy snow hits UK
- Boris raises prospect of hard border in Ireland
- 'Beast from the East' batters Britain



National News Headlines March 2018

1st March

- Storm Emma: Red warning in Wales and south-west England
- Thousands of jobs at risk as Maplin collapses too and Prezzo ‘cuts back’
- The beast bites Disruption across UK amid winter storm

2nd March

- 17 years on, we’re back in the black
- Storm Emma: Army called in to rescue drivers stuck in snow
- Fears of new arms race after Putin’s missile claim

3rd March

- UK weather: Warnings remain as temperatures set to rise
- Row over rise in energy bills for 1m households
- Scotland set for slow thaw as disruption continues

4th March

- Big freeze costs UK £1bn a day as fears mount for GDP growth
- Brexit day blueprint to abolish 50 EU rules
- Stars turn on BBC over tax ‘stitch-up’

5th March

- Millions miss out as they can’t get an appointment to see their doctor
- Labour probing their own equality adviser for ‘offensive’ tweets
- Carillion: lost chance to salvage millions

6th March

- US trade war ‘will spark deep recession’
- Britain needs to go on a diet, says top health official
- Saudi prince pledges to help UK thwart terror



National News Headlines March 2018

7th March

- Britons over 70 'have never had it so good'
- Russian spy: Police keen to speak to Salisbury visitors
- North Korea ready for nuclear peace talks

8th March

- Extra powers for courts in domestic abuse crackdown
- Russian spy: Police seek to identify nerve agent source
- Policeman poisoned by Russian spy nerve agent

9th March

- Now ministers could boot out Russian envoys
- EU may keep UK fishing rights, minister admits
- Trump 'ready to meet' Kim Jong-un

10th March

- Hammond will resist spending pleas despite £7.5bn tax windfall
- Army deployed to help Salisbury spy inquiry
- Aides seek to avoid PR coup for North Korea

11th March

- EU trying to bully us on Brexit, say two in three voters
- Russian spy: May to meet ministers to discuss evidence
- May under pressure to retaliate against Russia

12th March

- Sir Ken Dodd: Comedy legend dies, aged 90
- Labour lures Scots voters with £70 billion sweetener
- Westminster to review armed forces tax rises



National News Headlines March 2018

13th March

- New Bill won't have plan to cut migrant numbers
- May gives Putin until midnight to answer for nerve agent attack
- VAT break may benefit small business owners

14th March

- YouTube shamed by MPs for not taking down neo-Nazi films
- Stephen Hawking: Visionary physicist dies aged 76
- Russian spy: May to announce measures against Russia

15th March

- UK to build new £48m chemical weapons defence centre
- Russia threatens retaliation as May expels 23 diplomats
- 'If we cared a little more, lowwage Britain wouldn't exist'

16th March

- Nasa plans nuclear spacecraft to blitz asteroid threat to Earth
- Corbyn defies critics to warn against rush to judgment on spy poisoning
- The West tells Russia: enough is enough

17th March

- May: We will deliver our Brexit ambitions
- Russia spy poisoning: 23 UK diplomats expelled from Moscow
- 'Mini Beast from the East' brings snow and ice to parts of UK

18th March

- Brexit-backing' data firm 'stole' millions of Facebook profiles
- Corbyn urged to plug vote gap with £10bn more cash for disabled elderly
- Anger as Gibraltar left out of Brexit transition



National News Headlines March 2018

19th March

- Price of average home jumps £4,500 in month
- Facebook under fire as UK firm harvests details of 50m users
- Ant McPartlin arrested over drink-driving collision

20th March

- £25bn is wiped off Facebook as fury grows over harvesting row
- Spy poisoning: Corbyn says UK must still do business with Putin
- Fishermen 'betrayed' by May's Brexit deal

21st March

- Gove vow to take back control of fishing from EU
- NHS pay: Increase for 1.3 million staff expected
- No free pass for UK banks in EU, says withdrawal deal

22nd March

- May: We'll get back control of UK fishing by end of 2020
- Theresa May to warn EU leaders of Russian threat to democracy
- Jobless total up for the second month running

23rd March

- Retirees are richest ever, thanks to pensions and boom in housing
- EU recalls Russia ambassador after nerve agent attack
- May's task force backs women in business

24th March

- Blow to GKN as US 'vultures' back takeover
- Russian spy: Skripal asked Putin if he could return home
- Cambridge Analytica bragged: We have vast data for Brexit vote



25th March

- Hunt: I'll hire 3,000 midwives and save 700 babies a year
- Russian TV stations show propaganda using UK bases
- May sets out on the road to Brexit

26th March

- NHS tax on the cards as 98 MPs call for inquiry
- Jewish leaders say Corbyn is 'hostile'
- PM faces call for answers over Vote Leave claims

27th March

- Corbyn faces fury at anti-Semitism demo
- 'Incredible'... paralysed Manchester bomb victim can move his legs again
- UK firms 'fearful' for future migration system

28th March

- Drinks bottles and can deposit return scheme proposed
- May warns Putin: Back off now or face Britain's wrath
- Double council tax if you leave home empty for two years

29th March

- Brexit: Theresa May vows to keep UK 'strong and united'
- UK to hire 1,000 more border guards for Brexit
- Blair: Labour MPs must be ready to defy Corbyn

30th March

- May hints at Brexit dividend for the NHS
- Tearful Malala's joy as she returns to Pakistan
- Russia expels US diplomats as poisoning row grows

31st March

Corbyn urged to tackle 'virus' of anti-Semitism
Islamic State 'Beatles' duo complain about losing UK citizenship
Steel barriers and rooftop snipers to protect royal celebration at Windsor





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