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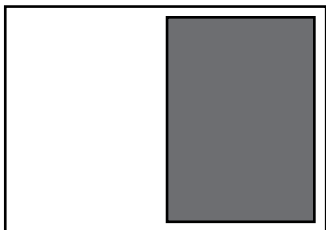
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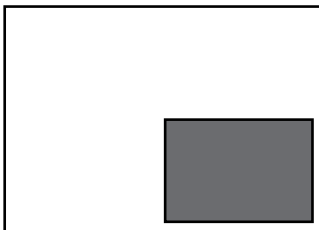
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# Contents

Paul's News Roundup _____	4
New measures to protect 10 million extra holidays a year _____	8
Longer tenancy plans to give renters more security _____	9
Severn Crossing officially renamed 'The Prince of Wales Bridge' _____	10
Agreement signs development of new livestock traceability service _____	12
Welcome progress in the Welsh Valleys _____	13
A boon for bees as Environment Agency trials pollinator project _____	14
UK aid support for those at risk from drought in Afghanistan _____	15
New protections for thousands of seabirds _____	16
Greens respond to record proposals for building on Green Belt _____	17
Environmental farming scheme given green light _____	18
Project Fear from the EU is just absurd _____	19
3000 people gather to mark the centenary of the Battle of Amiens _____	20
A step forward for Sellafield's most hazardous building _____	21
UK universities recognised for excellence in cyber security research _____	22
Dstl scientists take to the high seas on HMS Queen Elizabeth _____	23
'Lots of good news' but much more needs to be done for the planet _____	24
UK gifts historic SS Mendi Bell from WW1 to South Africa _____	25
Commuters' perfect working day revealed _____	26
Minister for Asia and the Pacific unveils plans to curb Pacific Ocean plastic pollution _____	27
Design Icon: KitchenAid Mixer _____	28
Asian hornet identified in Cornwall _____	30
People are spending more time outside in the natural environment than ever before _____	31
Now is a 'pivotal time for climate action' says UN chief _____	32
Bluetongue virus detected and dealt with in two imported cattle _____	33
Northern Powerhouse attracts record visitor numbers _____	34
Rare 16th century painting of Spanish Armada at risk of export _____	35
Golden gates _____	36
Dry weather support secured for livestock farmers _____	37
Fife named the most enterprising place in Britain for 2018 _____	39

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Cover picture: NASA's InSight Mars lander waiting for liftoff from its launch pad, SLC-3E, at Vandenberg Air Force Base in Central California. Credit: NASA



# Paul's News Roundup

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

By Paul G Bazeley for  
Government World

## July News Review

Naa'imur Zakariyah Rahman was convicted of terror offences after he attempted to detonate a bomb at Downing Street and kill Theresa May. Rahman, from London, had contacted what he thought was an IS recruiter on social media, however, it was, in fact, an FBI agent. Rahman was passed on to MI5 agents who also convinced Rahman they were IS figures. Rahman

was arrested after being given a jacket which he thought was filled with explosives.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Boris Johnson, and the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, David Davis, both resigned after having disagreements with Theresa May over Brexit negotiations.

Britain had a proper summer period with temperatures reaching

over 30 degrees in several places in the UK with a high of 35.1 degrees in Surrey.

Sajid Javid announced that the UK would legalise medicinal cannabis by the end of the year. The approval means doctors will be able to prescribe the use of the drug in treatments for a range of conditions. On the same subject, Vermont became the ninth US state to legalise cannabis.

Seattle became the first major US city to ban single-use plastic cutlery and straws in restaurants and bars. The ban follows a 'Strawless in Seattle' campaign, from 2017, which saw a huge reduction in plastic straws entering the waste system. Companies now have to provide

compostable or paper straws and cutlery.

Images emerged which appeared to show the Sohae station, a supposed rocket launch site in North Korea, being dismantled. The pictures seem to show a missile launch pad being taken apart.

Forty-eight-year-old Scott Donaldson, from New Zealand, became the first solo kayaker to cross the Tasman Sea. The Kiwi kayaked over 2000km, paddling for 16 hours on some days. Donaldson arrived to a crowd at New Plymouth where he declared he 'needed a shower'.

## July Sports Review

England beat Colombia 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out to advance to the quarterfinals. It is the first time England have won a penalty shoot-out in a world cup. England were then knocked out in the Semi-Finals by Croatia. France were crowned the World Cup



winners after beating Croatia 4-2 in a thrilling final.

Angelique Kerber won the Women's Wimbledon title after beating Serena Williams 6-3 6-3. Novak Djokovic won his fourth Men's Wimbledon title after beating Kevin Anderson in three sets.

Francesco Molinari won the 2018 Open Championship. The Italian managed to hold off some big names including Tiger Woods, Justin Rose and Rory McIlroy to claim his first Major win. Molinari finished on 8 under, beating his closest rivals by 2 shots.

Britain celebrated its sixth Tour de France win in seven years after Team Sky rider Geraint Thomas won the prestigious

cycle race. The 32-year-old follows Sir Bradley Williams in 2012 and four-time winner Chris Froome to become the third Brit to win the 21 stage race.

## **August News Review**

Apple becomes the first public company to be worth \$1trillion beating Amazon to the figure. The computer company famous for making iPhones and iMacs reached the valuation 42 years after it was founded. The company PetroChina was named the world's first trillion dollar company back in 2007, however, only 2% of the company was publicly traded meaning the valuation is considered unreliable.

A man was arrested after he drove his car into pedestrians and cyclists

before hitting security barriers outside the Houses of Parliament, London. Police were quick to respond and arrested the driver, Salih Khater, who was not known to MI5. Some people were treated for injuries but were later discharged.

A study revealed that only one-third of plastic that is put aside can be recycled. The Local Government Association (LGA) found that due to the polymers contained in some of the plastic approximately two-thirds of recycled plastic ends up going to landfill or being incinerated. The LGA stated 525,000 tonnes of plastic are put aside for recycling, but of those only 169,145 tonnes is actually recycled. The government is currently reviewing the

producer's responsibility in the process.

Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, died aged 76. The singer, who had 17 top ten hits in the US and won 18 Grammys, was diagnosed with cancer in 2010 and announced she was retiring from music last year.

The UK's heatwave returned in August with Temperatures across the country reaching close to 30 degrees. It is strongly believed the summer will be the hottest on record and others were warning it could mean a very cold winter is to come.

Scientists confirmed they had found ice at the moon's poles. Both the north and south poles showed signs of water ice which is believed to be ancient in origin. Temperatures on the moon can reach to around 100C, however, due to its tilted axis, some parts of the poles never see daylight and temperatures are thought to be around -150C.

The payday loan company Wonga fell into administration. The lender became known for its incredibly high-interest rates but began to struggle after a cap on interest rates and then £2.6million worth of compensation claims after it was found to be sending fake legal letters.

In other business news, Coca-Cola agreed to buy the coffee shop chain Costa Coffee for £3.9billion. The takeover means Coca-Cola, who bought the company from Whitbread, will become the biggest coffee shop chain in the UK.

Panasonic revealed plans to move their European headquarters from London to Amsterdam. The European chief executive for the

company, Laurent Abadie, revealed the move is to avoid potential tax issues. The company is believed to be moving in October of this year. The announcement came at a time where a number of large firms have claimed they plan to move jobs out of the UK.

A 1962 Ferrari 250 GTO was sold at auction for \$48.4million (£37.7million). It is the most expensive car ever sold at an auction, beating the previous record holder, also a Ferrari 250 GTO, by £10million.

## **August Sports Review**

The Premier League football season started with title holders Man City claiming 7 points out of a possible 9, while title

rivals Liverpool finished the month at the top of the table with 9 points and scoring 7 without conceding a goal.

Formula 1 returned after its summer break with the drivers heading to the Belgian GP. Sebastian Vettel won the race beating rival Lewis Hamilton by 11 seconds to claim 25 points.

## **September News Review**

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, said he would push for another meeting in November to allow the UK proposal to be amended and further negotiated. The Labour Party rejected the proposed Chequers agreement by Theresa May and the Conservative Party and stated they are open to a

new referendum.

Amazon became the World's second trillion dollar company just weeks after Apple reached the landmark. Although the company, which started out as a bookseller, was second to the milestone many experts believe the business has a lot more room for growth and think it could surpass Apple in the future.

Two men were named as the suspects in the Salisbury Novichok poisoning incident which left one dead and others in hospital. The two men, named as Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, later appeared on Russia's state-controlled RT channel where they claimed they were merely tourists that were sightseeing in Salisbury before returning to London.

The New York Times published an article in which an unnamed senior White House official claimed the administration conspires against President Donald Trump. The essay claims there is a small 'resistance' which is working to 'frustrate parts of his agenda and his worst inclinations'

and stated 'Americans should know that there are adults in the room'. The President described the writer as 'gutless' and tweeted 'TREASON?' after the article was published.

A beluga whale was spotted in the Thames. The whale, which was quickly named Benny, was originally spotted in the Thames near Gravesend, Kent. Experts were kept on stand-by as the whale, whose normal habitat is in the Arctic thousands of miles away, seemed to be acting normally for a young beluga whale. It is thought a navigational error brought the whale to the Thames and people were told to watch from afar so as not to alarm the animal or confuse its sonar navigation.

South Africa's highest court legalised the use of cannabis by adults in private places. It will still be illegal to consume cannabis in public and to buy or sell the drug, however, growing marijuana for private consumption was also made legal.

The band Wolf Alice won the Mercury prize for their second album Visions of a Life. The band beat favourite Nadine Shah to the award as well as others including Noel Gallagher, Arctic Monkeys and Lily Allen. The band had been nominated in 2015 for their first album, My Love is Cool, but lost to Benjamin Clementine.

The 70th Emmy Awards took place in Los Angeles. Claire Foy won

best lead actress in a drama series for her work on The Crown and Matthew Rhys won best lead actor in a drama series for The Americans. Game of Thrones won best drama series and the Marvellous Mrs Maisel won best comedy series.

A controversial Nike advert saw a 30% sales surge for the company beating the previous year's sales. The advert featured the face of the Colin Kaepernick and the words 'Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything. Just do it.' Kaepernick has been without an NFL contract since March 2017 due to the controversy surrounding the man who began the protests on racial injustice and police brutality across America

by kneeling during the national anthem before NFL games.

## September Sports Review

Novak Djokovic won the men's singles title at the US Open. The Serbian beat Juan Martin Del Potro in three sets. The women's singles title was overshadowed by controversy after Serena Williams received a code violation for coaching, a penalty point for racquet abuse and was then given a game penalty for calling the umpire a thief and a liar. Williams later claimed the umpire was 'sexist' as she claims men have said worse things and not been given a game penalty. Williams lost the final 6-2 6-4 to Naomi Osaka who won her first major title.

Tiger Woods wins the PGA Tour Championship his first tour win since 2013. Justin Rose wins the FedEx points race to win the \$10million price pot.

END

# New measures to protect 10 million extra holidays a year

## Government has introduced new Package Travel Regulations

The government has introduced new measures that will protect an extra 10 million UK package holidays a year and help save British holidaymakers tens of millions of pounds a year with strengthened rights for consumers and new protections.

Online bookings have transformed the way many people buy holidays, with 83% of Brits booking a

holiday online in 2017 compared to 76% in 2016. According to ABTA, the Travel Association, changes to how we book travel – such as using online booking sites – have created a gap in consumer protections, with 50% of holidays not currently financially protected if a company fails.

To address these gaps, close loopholes and protect more types of holidays, the Package Travel Directive now enacted includes new measures that will:

- ensure people who book holidays online through travel sites enjoy the same rights as those who book with a traditional travel agent
- broaden the definition of package holidays to capture modern booking models such as online and via mobile
- require that travel providers and operators provide better information to travellers, making it clear what their rights to refund are
- make online sites which enable consumers to put travel packages together responsible for the entire

holiday, even if services are performed by third parties

Since announcing the new protections earlier this year, the government has worked with travel industry leaders to develop guidance for businesses to help them comply with the new regulations now published. Alongside this, ABTA have also published detailed guidance for both consumers and businesses on the updated regulations.

The new measures follow the government having launched its Modernising Consumer Markets green paper in April, a key part of its modern Industrial Strategy, which will hold companies who fail consumers to account and looking to strengthen consumer protections.





# Longer tenancy plans to give renters more security



## Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP proposes the introduction of a minimum 3-year tenancy term, with a 6-month break clause.

Renters who may be forced to leave their homes at short notice will be given more security thanks to government action to introduce longer tenancy terms.

In plans published, Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP proposes the introduction of a minimum 3-year tenancy

term, with a 6-month break clause, to help renters put down roots, and give landlords longer term financial security.

According to government data, people stay in their rented homes for an average of nearly 4 years. But despite this, 81% of rental contracts are assured shorthold tenancies with a minimum fixed term of just 6 or 12 months.

This can lead to tenants feeling insecure, unable to challenge poor property standards for fear of

tenancies being terminated, and unable to plan for their future or contribute to their wider community.

Although tenants and landlords can already agree longer terms between themselves, the majority choose not to do so.

Under the proposed longer term agreement, tenants would be able to leave before the end of the minimum term, but would have greater protection if they wanted to stay in a property for an extended period of time.

Secretary of State for Communities Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP said:

“It is deeply unfair when renters are forced to uproot their lives or find new schools for their children at short notice due to the terms of their rental contract.

“Being able to call your rental property your home is vital to putting down roots and building stronger communities.

“That’s why I am determined to act, bringing in longer tenancies which will bring benefits to tenants and landlords alike.”

As part of its continuing commitment to give more security to renters, an 8-week consultation on the plan has been published, specifically looking at overcoming the barriers to landlords offering longer tenancies.

The 3-year model is one of a range of options and the consultation seeks views on longer minimum tenancies, which are used in other countries, as well as ideas on how to implement the model agreement.

Landlords play a vital role in providing homes to millions of people in this country and the proposals ensure that longer tenancies help them avoid costly periods while they search for new tenants and offers them flexibility to regain their properties when their circumstances change.

July

## Severn Crossing officially renamed The Prince of Wales Bridge'

The Prince of Wales has officially marked the renaming of the Second Severn Crossing at a ceremony in Newport (2 July).

His Royal Highness was joined by The Duchess of Cornwall on a visit to South Wales which signalled the start of Their Royal Highnesses' annual 'Wales Week' tour.

The Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns announced earlier this year the decision to rename the crossing 'The Prince of Wales Bridge' as a tribute to His Royal Highness in a year that sees him mark 60 years as The Prince of Wales and as a celebration of Princes of Wales past and present.

The decision to rename the

Second Severn Crossing has had the full support of the Welsh Government.

The Royal couple were first hosted on a tour of the Severn Crossing toll

office by the Secretary of State for Wales, meeting Highways England staff who have been responsible for the Crossings since they returned to public ownership in January this year.

The party then travelled

to the Celtic Manor Resort for a celebratory reception where The Prince of Wales unveiled a ceremonial plaque to mark the renaming of the Bridge.

The visit comes in the year that the UK Government is set to abolish the tolls to use the Severn Crossings.

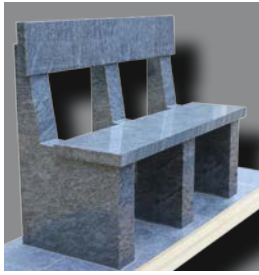


The Second Severn Crossing, viewed from Severn Beach. Photograph by mattbuck. Source: Wikipedia



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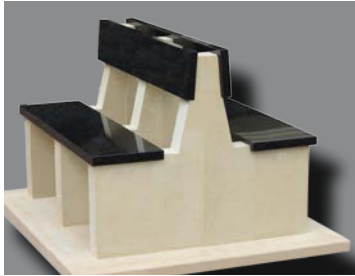


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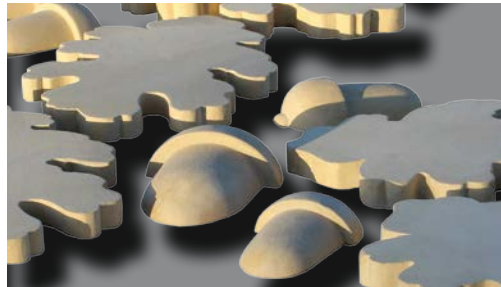
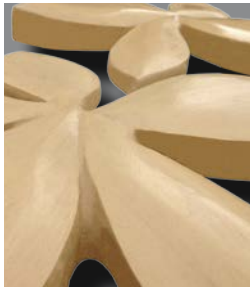
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## Agreement signs development of new livestock traceability service



**A new agreement has been signed between AHDB and Defra setting out how AHDB could develop a new multi-species livestock traceability service for England.**

The initiative was instigated by key industry stakeholders and is set to be rolled out from 2019.

Activity will take place over the next few months to undertake due diligence and develop a target operating model for the new service. That detailed work will enable a final decision on whether to proceed with the collaboration to be taken in the autumn.

This development follows the announcement from

Defra in April about the go-ahead of the service, providing the foundation for some of the best farm-to-fork traceability in the world. The heads of agreement was signed during a visit to AHDB's Stoneleigh Park headquarters by Farming Minister George Eustice.

Key stakeholders, represented by the

Traceability Design User Group (TDUG), have been involved in developing the vision and design principles and determining how all parties can work together.

The new service will add value for the livestock sectors, as well as providing a statutory service that will better protect against disease and bolster trade negotiations.

Farming Minister George Eustice said:

“We have been clear from the start that we need government and industry to work together in providing this service, which is why I am pleased to see this next stage of delivery underway.

“The service will be instrumental in improving traceability and ensuring we continue to provide some of the best meat and livestock products in the world.”

John Cross, independent chair of TDUG, said:

“It is essential that the service is delivered in partnership with industry. It must underpin on-farm productivity and enable better management of risks to animal health in order to connect our supply chain, help us to evidence our high standards of production and protect and access markets both at home and internationally.”



# Welcome progress in the Welsh Valleys

Characteristic Rhondda valley scenery: Cwmparc, 2013. Photo by Taff Gorge. Source: Wikipedia



The Our Valleys, Our Future action plan was published a year ago and set three core priorities, based on feedback from people living and working in the Valleys. It outlined an ambitious plan for lasting change across the South Wales Valleys.

A more detailed delivery plan, highlighting more than 60 individual actions in the three priority areas,

was published in November 2017.

At the heart of both the action plan and the delivery plan are good-quality jobs and the skills to do them, better public services and my local community.

The taskforce is publishing a first-year progress report, detailing the breadth of the work over the last 12

months.

Mr Davies, who chairs the taskforce, said:

“A year ago, the taskforce set the challenging target of closing the employment gap between the South Wales Valleys and the rest of Wales. This means helping an extra 7,000 people into fair work and creating thousands of new,

fair, secure and sustainable jobs in the Valleys.

“In the past 12 months, more than 1,000 economically-inactive people living in Valleys taskforce areas have started work through Welsh Government-led employment programmes. Nearly 1,000 people and small businesses have been helped through advice and business support; and an additional 100 new enterprises have been created within the Valleys taskforce area.”

# A boon for bees as Environment Agency trials pollinator project



A male bumblebee about to alight on a Heuchera, with its glossa extended and ready to extract nectar. Photo by Sffubs. Source: Wikipedia

The beloved bumblebee is one of dozens of species set to benefit from an Environment Agency project to improve habitat for pollinators.

A pioneering pilot scheme in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire sees Environment Agency

teams adapting their routine work in a bid to boost biodiversity.

The teams, who maintain thousands of kilometres of river and reservoir banks that serve as flood defences, have been experimenting with the frequency and timings of

maintenance work, like grass-cutting, on the banks to see what best preserves the wildflowers and herbs bees need.

They have also compared the results of removing the grass-clippings or leaving them in situ – and have found that removing them

helps plants like clover, ox-eye daisies, dandelions and buttercups flourish.

This season marks the third year of the 5 year pilot – and also marks the third annual Bees Needs Week, an initiative by government, conservation groups, industry and retailers to raise awareness of simple things anyone can do to support pollinators, like growing more flowers and leaving patches of their garden to grow wild.

At the same time, biodiversity officers have also been making the most of EA-owned buildings like pumping stations and unused land to install bee boxes, hotels and havens made of natural scrap material – many of which were occupied almost immediately.

Nikki Loveday, biodiversity officer with the Environment Agency, said:

“It’s our mission to protect people and wildlife and this is a brilliant example of how being flexible and innovative can help us achieve more for our environment.

“We’re adapting how we carry out vital maintenance on our flood defences and looking for any opportunity to support our precious pollinators and the wider ecology.”



July

# UK aid support for those at risk from drought in Afghanistan

**New UK aid package to provide emergency food supplies for 1.4 million people**

A new UK aid package will contribute emergency food supplies for 1.4 million people in Afghanistan whose lives are at risk from a deadly drought, International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt announced on 27 July.

The UK is one of the first countries to support the United Nations' appeal. Our rapid response will help import and distribute food and nutrition supplies before the situation deteriorates further.

UK support will help some of the poorest people who are reliant on agriculture for food and income but will struggle to survive when this year's harvest fails in the coming weeks.

This UK aid package of support will provide immediate food and nutrition aid for 441,000 people who are already in a critical situation, including by



Afghan boys wearing traditional headgear. Kunduz, Afghanistan. Photo by Chitrapa source: Wikipedia

distributing fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, pulses, salt and other nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition.

It will also support 1.4 million people until early next year by helping to replenish stockpiles of food and import high nutrient goods, which are high in essential vitamins, minerals and proteins.

International Development Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, said:

“The drought in Afghanistan is an unfolding crisis, with 1.4 million people's lives at risk when this year's harvest fails in a number of provinces in only a matter of weeks.

“We call on other countries to join this international

effort to support some of the world's most vulnerable people during what will be immensely difficult times.”

The most vulnerable people in Afghanistan have a limited ability to survive such a severe drought as a result of extreme poverty. Families in the worst affected areas have no water to grow crops for next year and are now surviving on only one meal a day, which fails to provide the calories and nutritional content they need to survive.

# New protections for thousands of seabirds



Kittiwakes (*Rissa Tridactyla*) on the chalk cliffs at Flamborough Head. Photo by By The joy of all things. Source: Wikipedia

England's largest seabird colony will soon benefit from stronger protection as Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey confirms the Flamborough Head and Filey Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) will be extended by over 7,600 hectares.

This protected area of Yorkshire coastline already

provides a safe haven for breeding seabirds including gannets, razorbills and the iconic puffin. Now, a quarter of a million breeding seabirds – including almost 2,000 puffins – will be better protected and given a safe space for feeding and foraging.

The announcement comes during National Marine

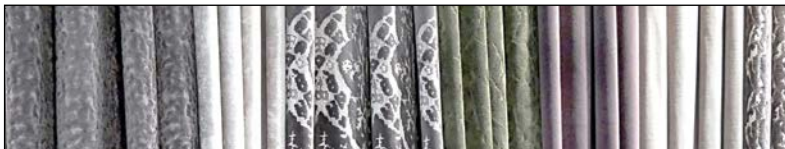
Week, which celebrates the UK's rich marine life and habitats, and ongoing efforts to protect these for future generations.

Natural England has also launched a consultation to extend the nearby Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA by nearly 10,000 hectares, which

if designated, will help protect populations of breeding little terns and common terns.

The proposed sites will cover an area almost eight times the size of Greater London and help protect species like the short snouted seahorse, stalked jellyfish and peacock's tail seaweed. If designated, they will mark the most significant expansion of the UK's 'Blue Belt' of protected areas to date.





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# Environmental farming scheme given green light

## Popular “Payment by Results” pilot scheme is granted two years of further funding

The Environment Secretary has announced that the Payment by Results (PBR) project will be the first agri-environment scheme directly funded by the UK.

In future, all the funding for the Payment by Results (PBR) pilot will come from Defra, with a £540,000 boost to pay farmers according to the environmental outcomes they achieve over the next two years.

The project is paying participating farmers in two areas - Norfolk and Suffolk in the East of England and Wensleydale in Yorkshire - for work that is specifically tailored to

the environmental needs of their area. For example, in Norfolk and Suffolk farmers are benefitting from planting nectar plots for bees and other pollinators, while those in Wensleydale are focused on managing species-rich meadows.

The announcement follows the government’s public consultation on future farming policy which set out plans to move towards a system where farmers are paid according to the public goods they provide. As we leave the EU, there will be further trialling work to reach a model where profitable farm businesses and environmental land management can co-exist and complement one another.

The PBR project had been due to conclude at the end



of this year, but Defra’s new funding will enable participating farmers to deliver environmental benefits for an additional two years.

The trial is focused on providing training and guidance for farmers so they are empowered

to create their own management plan for their land, and feel more knowledgeable about what they want to achieve, and why. This flexibility has meant participants have become more engaged in the wildlife they want to see on their land and think more creatively about how to achieve these results.



## Project Fear from the EU is just absurd

By John Redwood MP

I guess much of the latest round of Project Fear, now in its extreme phase, comes from EU sources. They are clearly worried that we might just leave without making them a large payment and without staying in their system for another 21 months. They seem to be trying to shock UK public opinion into buyer's remorse on Brexit. Their efforts are silly.

Doubtless some of the most ardent Remain MPs and peers, many of them on the Opposition benches, seek to play up any negatives the EU might throw them as they seek to disrupt the country and its government over Brexit. The latest scare stories do not merit the attention they get in some newspapers and in some of the media. A cursory questioning of any of

these stories would show it is without substance.

Let's take the latest scares that we will run out of drugs and food. How could that possibly happen? Continental suppliers want to sell us their goods after March 29th 2019, as they do now. The EU does not have the power to ban them selling to us. We will control all the ports for the receipt of these goods, so we will decide what checks and payments will be required. We can appoint whatever people and deploy whatever technology we want to ensure smooth running of the import process under WTO rules. Why would we want to introduce new checks and taxes that make it difficult to import things we want? I was glad to see that No 10 has at last briefed that there are no stand by plans for the army to move

food, as food will of course continue to roll in on ships and trucks as it does today. Our non EU imports come in smoothly at the moment showing we know how to do it, even with tariffs where the EU requires them.

Or lets take the stupid idea that France and Germany will ground all their plans that currently fly to the UK in order to stop our planes flying to their airports. They are not going to want to cut themselves off from the UK market, from London and the large international hub at Heathrow, and their airlines will not want to have to cancel all the tickets they are selling for flights after March 29th 2019. The EU does not have the power to stop planes flying between member states. What would they say to the Spanish co owners of BA if they wanted to damage BA, the main UK airline? How would they put up a case in court when an airline sued them for

attempted damage to its business? Then there is the wrong notion that EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU would be at risk of removal. The UK has made clear it is not going to ask people legally settled here under EU rules to leave, and I expect the rest of the EU to behave in the same manner towards UK people living on the continent. Advanced democratic countries obey international law, which does not permit mass deportations. Nor I am glad to say have I ever heard a mainstream UK or EU politician advocate anything so unpleasant.

During the referendum campaign when I was speaking to a public meeting in my own area, the Remain spokesman was a civilised former senior civil servant. He delivered a mild version of Project Fear about the job losses, recession, falls in house prices and the rest that his side forecast for the winter immediately after the vote. We now know that was all wrong. The public reaction in a mixed audience was fascinating. They laughed at the silliness of Project Fear.

August

## 3000 people gather to mark the centenary of the Battle of Amiens

More than 3,000 people had gathered in France to mark the centenary of the Battle of Amiens and the start of the Hundred Days Offensive, the final period of the First World War.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge joined Prime Minister Theresa May at the ceremony in Amiens Cathedral to remember those who fought in the battle.

Two thousand guests watched the service from inside the Cathedral, including hundreds of descendants of those who fought. A further 1,200 members of the public watched from the Cathedral square.

In a speech, HRH The Duke of Cambridge paid tribute to those who served in the battle one hundred years ago and the cooperation between the Allied nations.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

“The Battle of Amiens was the turning point which hastened the final, decisive chapter of the First World War.

“A hundred years on, today’s ceremony is a fitting moment to remember those who sacrificed their lives, and reflect on our shared past, present and future.

On 8 August 1918, the Allied armies, made up of British, Australian, Canadian, French and

American forces, advanced over seven miles on the first day of the Battle of Amiens, one of the greatest advances of the war.

The battle demonstrated how the Allies had learned lessons from previous campaigns and combined the use of infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft to devastating effect.

Amiens also marked the start of the Hundred Days Offensive that won the war sooner than had previously been thought possible. The opening day of the battle was described by the German General Erich Ludendorff as the black day of the German Army.



8th August 1918 by Will Longstaff, Australian official war artist. Depicts a scene during the Battle of Amiens. The view is towards the west, looking back towards Amiens. A column of German prisoners of war being led into captivity. Meanwhile horse-drawn artillery are advancing to the east.



## A step forward for Sellafield's most hazardous building

**Work to empty the Magnox Swarf Storage Silo has taken a significant step forward.**

A waste transfer package has been lifted into the building for the first time.

The 50-tonne package was safely placed onto one of three machines that will begin grabbing waste out of the building's 22 silo compartments from next year.

Originally constructed as six silos in the 1960's and then extended three times, MSSS stores magnesium cladding or 'swarf' that was stripped from Magnox fuel prior to reprocessing.

The swarf is stored underwater in the 16 metre-deep silos but over time the magnesium

releases heat and hydrogen meaning the facility requires constant management and monitoring.

Since the early 1990's this type of waste has been immobilised in concrete instead as this makes it more passive and practical to manage.

The radioactive inventory and lack of modern standards in the silo makes it the most complicated and highest-priority mission in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's estate.

Preparations for removing the 11,000m<sup>3</sup> of historic waste from the silos and placing them into safe, modern storage have been over twenty years in the making.

Next year three 360 tonne Silo Emptying Plant (SEP) machines will start reaching in to the silos and removing the waste with a hydraulic grab.

The waste will then be loaded into the shielded transfer packages and safely stored on the Sellafield site until a permanent geological disposal facility is constructed.

Head of Programme for MSSS, Chris Halliwell, said:

"The transfer package is the essential link in the chain to safer storage.

"It's a big moment to see it finally being attached to the SEP machine inside the silo.

"Never before have these two bits of machinery met inside the place where they'll be carrying out our biggest job in hazard reduction."

The first transfer package

to enter the silo was manufactured by Workington firm TSP Engineering and is one of nine original packages they have built and modified for Sellafield Ltd.

TSP is currently competing with Cavendish Nuclear to build the next batch of 15 transfer packages; an advanced manufacturing contract worth tens of millions of pounds to British Industry.



The 50-tonne package was safely placed onto a machine that will grab waste out of the building

# UK universities recognised for excellence in cyber security research

## Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research recognised by the National Cyber Security Centre & Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

- Three new Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research recognised, including the first in Wales.
- Total number of Centres in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland boosted to 17.

Three UK universities have been recognised as Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research (ACE-CSR), highlighting the way in which the country is leading the way in cyber security skills.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the

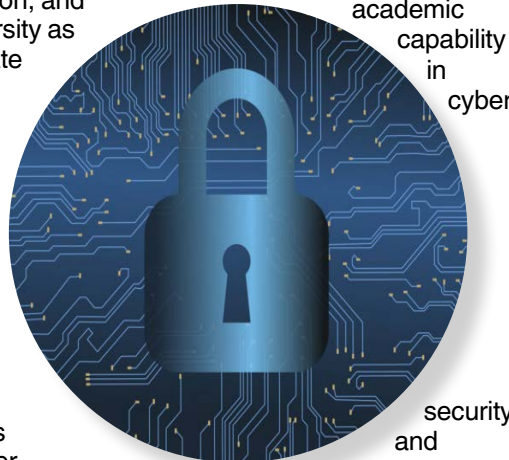
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) have identified the University of Kent, King's College London, and Cardiff University as having first-rate research with scale and impact.

The universities will now join 14 other institutions in a scheme forming part of the Government's National Cyber Security Strategy, which is making the UK the safest place to be online and helping to support the country's thriving digital economy.

The universities will now have the opportunity to

bid for funding to develop cutting-edge research in cyber security, including at Doctoral level, as well as attend annual conferences and workshops.

The scheme aims to create a better understanding of the strength of the UK's



academic capability in cyber

security and identify areas

where there are research opportunities or technical gaps. It makes collaboration between academia, business and government easier, and helps make sure cutting-edge research is turned into practical

products and services. This includes developing tools to tackle mass marketing fraud online and better understand cyber criminals.

Minister for Digital Margot James said:

These universities are doing fantastic research in cyber security and they are rightly being recognised for their pioneering work.

We have some of the best minds in the world working in the field and thanks to this scheme they can now help shape our National Cyber Security Strategy and develop the talent and services of tomorrow.

Chris Ensor, Deputy Director for Cyber Security Skills and Growth at the NCSC, said:

"The UK has world-class universities carrying out cutting edge research into all areas of cyber security.

"It's fantastic to see three more universities recognised as Academic Centres of Excellence and I'm especially pleased that we now have centres in all home nations.

"The NCSC looks forward to collaborating with these institutions to make the UK the safest place to live and work online.

As HMS Queen Elizabeth makes her way across the Atlantic deploying for her longest sea trial to date, a pair of scientists from the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) are on-board as part of an analytic research team.

Dstl has been involved in the development of HMS Queen Elizabeth for the past 20 years, starting with the original study to replace the Invincible light carrier fleet. Dstl helped to define the size and shape of the ship and a specialist team investigated ship-air integration, which supported the design of the flight deck and ski-jump used to launch the F-35B Lightning II fighter jets.

Currently on-board is Dstl operational analyst Tom, who will be joined later in September by Hannah, both of whom will provide vital analysis to the battle group and commanders

## Dstl scientists take to the high seas on HMS Queen Elizabeth



The Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth arrives in Gibraltar for her first overseas port visit. The 65,000 tonne future flagship was conducting a routine logistics stop having left her home in Portsmouth a week earlier for helicopter trials. Photo by Dave Jenkins. Source: Wikipedia

during the voyage. It will be HMS Queen Elizabeth's maiden voyage across the Atlantic as she prepares to embark her first F-35B Lightning II fighter jets. She is one of two new aircraft carriers built for the Royal Navy with the second, HMS

Prince of Wales, nearing the end of construction in Rosyth.

The aim of the flight trials is to use specially equipped test aircraft and sensors around the ship to work out the operating parameters of

the aircraft and the carrier itself in a range of conditions. The carrier has already conducted similar trials for helicopters.

During the exercise, Dstl scientists will focus on operational analysis, gathering data that will be used to inform future operational activity.



## ‘Lots of good news’ but much more needs to be done for the planet, says UN environment chief



The terminal view of Cochin international airport in India

**Calling 2017 “the first year in human history” that more new clean energy was added to the grid than new oil, gas and coal combined, Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has told UN News that “we are on track” but “we really need to speed up”.**

Southern India, for example, now has in Cochin International Airport “the first all-solar airport in the world”, he said, pointing out that some of India’s southern states are experiencing “the most rapid economic development anywhere in the world — based on solar energy”.

Moreover, he said that in the

United States, “there are five times more jobs in solar, than in coal”.

Speaking about Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15, protecting life on land, the UNEP chief was also upbeat, saying that China had recently prohibited all trading in ivory; “very important because it stops the market for those killing

elephants in Africa”.

And calling it a “huge, huge achievement”, Mr. Solheim said that Indonesia has reduced deforestation across its peatlands by close to 90 per cent. Peat is partially decayed, dead vegetation, which stores enormous amounts of carbon and, among other things, soaks up water — helping to mitigate flooding — during wet season and releases water during dry season.

“Rwanda, Botswana and African nations are also doing very, very well” with wildlife protection efforts, he said, “but still, it is not adding up to being sufficient for the planet. We need to do a lot more.”

Mr. Solheim explained that UN Environment works with government, civil society and businesses, to turn protecting nature into a business opportunity, which benefits all.

Zeroing in on SDG 14, life below the water, the UN Environment chief shared a moving story of a dying whale in Thailand that had swallowed 80 plastic bags. Adding a silver lining, Mr. Solheim observed that people and governments are now taking action in response to such stark examples of environmental destruction.

# UK gifts historic SS Mendi Bell from WW1 to South Africa

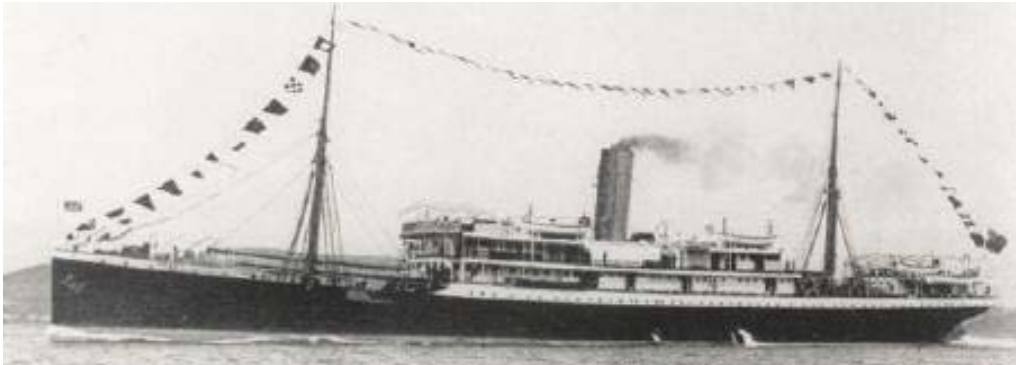


**The UK has gifted the bell from First World War ship the SS Mendi to the Republic of South Africa, where it holds cultural and historical value.**

Prime Minister Theresa May presented the bell to South African president Cyril Ramaphosa as an example of the shared heritage that underpins the close relationship between

the two nations.

The sinking of the SS Mendi in the English Channel on 21 February 1917, a disaster that resulted in the loss of 616 South Africans, is a significant historical moment in the country's history. It is commemorated by South African Armed Forces Day held on the date of the disaster and commonly referred to as Mendi day.



SS Mendi, sunk on 21 February 1917 with the loss of 30 British and Sierra Leonean crew and 616 troops, most of them men of the South African Native Labour Corps (SANLC)

## 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.



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WORLDWIDE  
Design and Innovation





# Commuters' perfect working day revealed

## The CMA is launching Shifting commuting times could save an hour each week

Commuters could speed up their journeys by up to 10 miles per hour by starting and finishing work just one hour later, according to new research.

The study by Highways England was carried out on a 9-mile-stretch of the M62 which links the M6 near Warrington to the M60 near Manchester. The route is used by 120,000 drivers every day and construction work is currently taking place to upgrade it to a smart motorway, increasing its capacity by a third.

Commuters had previously faced speeds of just 36 miles per hour between 5pm and 6pm when almost 9,000 drivers take to the short section of motorway on their way home from work.

The study has found that drivers who set off for work after 9am are likely to get there much more quickly than those travelling during the two hours after 7am.

Drivers using this stretch of the M62 who wait until 6pm before leaving the office are also likely to travel 10 miles per hour faster than those leaving at 5pm, or 20 miles per hour faster if they wait until 7pm – cutting journey times by around a third.

Overall, the research found that commuters travelling 20 miles each way and working the traditional 9am to 5pm day could be spending almost an hour extra on the road every week, compared to those working from 10am to 6pm.

Mike Bull, Highways England's smart motorways programme manager for the North, said:

“We all know that our roads are at their busiest during the morning and evening commute but it's surprising that shifting our working days by just one hour

could have such a significant impact on journey times.

“Many people won't have a choice about the hours they work but if some are able to start and finish work an hour later then it could benefit everyone – and save some drivers around an hour each week.

“We're also doing our bit to

improve journey times for drivers at Highways England by converting some of our busiest stretches of motorway into smart motorways, adding extra lanes and using technology to prevent tailbacks caused by sudden braking.”

The hard shoulders on each new smart motorway will be converted into permanent extra lanes and new emergency areas will be created for drivers to use if they break down. New CCTV cameras will also provide 100% coverage of the routes.

One of the most important signals on a smart motorway – the red X – is used to identify when a lane is closed and indicates that drivers should move into an open lane to continue their journeys.

Driving in a closed lane is dangerous, as there could be debris in the road or an accident or breakdown up ahead. Keeping the lane clear gives the emergency services the access they need to help.

# Minister for Asia and the Pacific unveils plans to curb Pacific Ocean plastic pollution

Britain has pledged to champion Climate Risk and Resilience at next year's UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit, and has confirmed that its three missions in Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu will all be free of avoidable single-use plastics.

The uninhabited Henderson Island was recently established to have the worst levels of plastic rubbish on its shores of anywhere in the world, and marine plastic pollution elsewhere in the region is a growing problem. The UK's three additional diplomatic missions in the region will be barred from using avoidable single-use plastics, and will

help promote further joint work on climate change issues in the region.

Making the announcement at the Pacific Islands Forum, Minister for Asia and the Pacific Mark Field said:

"Climate change poses a clear and present danger to the people of the Pacific islands like nowhere else in the world. The UK is already working with Vanuatu through the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance to tackle the scourge of plastic pollution, and it is important our own representatives lead by example by cracking down on single-use plastics.

"But addressing climate

change needs massive transformational change and I am proud of Britain's contribution through the Green Climate Fund. We will be building on this by working much more closely with all the Pacific islands through our missions in the region in the coming years.

The UK is among the largest contributors of international climate finance and in the four years to 2020 will be giving developing countries over £5.5 billion to help them mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Image by Vaidehi Shah from Singapore (Litter on Singapore's East Coast Parkway) Source: Wikipedia





# Design Icon: KitchenAid Mixer

By Paul Bazeley

With the leaves beginning to turn brown and the slight chill in the air, it means one thing; Autumn is on its way. As those nights begin to draw in rapidly it means The Great British Bake Off is back on our screens. Although we could spend quite a while talking about its move to a different channel, whether or not we're beginning to like the new presenters and whether we'll ever get used to the adverts, particularly that quick one they squeezed in just before the end, we're not going to. What we are going to talk about is one thing we see on the countertops, not just on Bake Off, but in a lot of TV chef's kitchens: the KitchenAid Stand Mixer.

A now iconic piece of design and probably the hardest working piece of equipment in a lot of people's kitchens, the KitchenAid was developed in 1919 by Herbert Johnson. After seeing a

baker mix dough, Johnson, an engineer from Ohio, developed a product known as the H mixer for industrial use. In 1919 a smaller version known as the H5 was produced for home use. While testing the machine, the wife of one of the company directors said 'it is the best kitchen aid I've ever had' and thus KitchenAid and the stand mixer was born.

The mixers were an immediate success selling tens of thousands in the first few years. Then in the 1930s Egmont Arens, an incredibly interesting man who was a designer, an industrial designer and editor of Vanity Fair, designed three models. The model K is probably the most well known and now has a cult following and all the KitchenAids today still strongly resemble that model. The models that Arens designed were a huge success and not only sold well, but they also



Model "K", which introduced the trademarked KitchenAid silhouette  
Image by Cindy Funk - Flickr: Kitchen Aid



A range of modern KitchenAid stand mixers  
Image by AngryJulieMonday - Flickr: KitchenAid at Housewares 3 (Mixers)

received design awards and are now found in design museums across the world.

During the Second World War, manufacturing ceased as the factory was closed. It was reopened shortly after and found a new home in Greenville, Ohio to allow for larger production. The world of stand mixers continued relatively unchanged until 1955 when KitchenAid decided to offer a variety of colours. In an otherwise white world in terms of kitchen appliances, the introduction saw green, yellow, pink and as well as other colours. The colour choice was further extended in 1994 which saw the introduction of many of the colours we know and love today.

While the brand had been popular, it wasn't until 1988 when Williams-Sonoma began to open new stores across America and decided to really showcase KitchenAid that the brand really took off. As the brand's awareness and popularity grew they began to launch other kitchen

appliances. The brand then sponsored the American show Home Cooking and the KitchenAid mixer and their other appliances began to be used by celebrity chefs and heavily featured on television.

Next year sees the 100th anniversary of Johnson's original H5 mixer. Although the 1930s saw the design alter since then, the introduction of colours has been the biggest change. Over the last couple of years, KitchenAid has introduced a large capacity mixer and a slightly smaller mixer to appeal to those with more and less space than the original design. It is likely that the company will probably do something a special next year to mark the 100th anniversary, but whether they do or not, the KitchenAid Mixer will forever be a design icon. The stand mixer is coveted by thousands if not millions across the world, not only does it do a range of kitchen tasks brilliantly and lasts a lifetime, it also looks great on a counter.

So, now the Bake Off is up and running and those dark nights are creeping in, the desire to stay in and eat comfort food seems more and more appealing. Maybe, it is time to step back, appreciate its design and practicality and if you are lucky enough to own one maybe even bake something.



# Asian hornet identified in Cornwall

**An Asian hornet has been found in Cornwall and surveillance activity is underway.**

The National Bee Unit has confirmed a sighting of the Asian hornet in the Fowey area of south Cornwall.

This Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees and work is already underway to identify any nests, which includes deploying bee inspectors to visit local beekeepers and setting up monitoring traps.

Previous outbreaks of the Asian hornet have been successfully contained by APHA bee inspectors who promptly tracked down and destroyed the nests. The intention is to do the same in this instance.

Nicola Spence, Defra Deputy Director for Plant



The Asian Hornet ( *Vespa velutina*) Photo by Siga. Source: Wikipedia

and Bee Health, said:

“While the Asian Hornet poses no greater risk to human health than a bee, we recognise the damage they can cause to honey bee colonies. That’s why we are taking swift and robust action to locate and investigate any nests in

the south Cornwall areas following this confirmed sighting.

“Following the successful containment of the Asian hornet incursion in North Devon last year and Tetbury previously, we have a well-established protocol in place to eradicate them and

control any potential spread.

“We remain vigilant across the country, working closely with the National Bee Unit and their nationwide network of bee inspectors.”

Bee inspectors from APHA National Bee Unit have started carrying out surveillance and monitoring in a 1-2 km radius around the initial sighting.

# People are spending more time outside in the natural environment than ever before

**New national statistics published by Natural England show that more people than ever before are visiting and spending time in the natural environment.**

The proportion of adults visiting nature at least once a week has increased from 54 per cent in 2010 to 62 per cent in 2018.

Natural England's Monitoring of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE)

report also found that this trend could be seen across population groups, including groups where levels of participation have historically been lower.

This year's report further found the proportion of people living in England's most deprived areas visiting the natural environment at least once a week has increased by 13 per cent from 38 per cent in 2009/10 to 51 per cent in 2017/18.

This year's report also found:

- In 2017/18 health and exercise was the main motivation for spending time in the natural environment (reported for over half of all visits).
- In 2017/18, 86% people were concerned about damage to the natural environment. Choosing to walk instead of taking the car is on the up (reported by 48 per cent of people in 2017/18 compared

with 40% in 2009/10) but other pro-environmental behaviours remain predominantly static (such as volunteering for environment or conservation causes which has remained at 5 per cent over the last nine years).

- Despite high levels of concern, only a third of people think they are likely to make future lifestyle changes to protect the environment.

The government's 25 Year Environment Plan aims to connect more people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing and encourage them to take action to improve the natural world.



# Now is a 'pivotal time for climate action' says UN chief



**With record-breaking heat once again enveloping the earth this year, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said it was also “a pivotal time for climate action”, marking the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.**

When scientist revealed that chlorofluorocarbons, found mainly in refrigerants and aerosol sprays, were tearing a hole in the ozone layer - a fragile shield of gas that protects the earth and helps preserves life – the world responded

with the Montreal Protocol. The landmark 1987 global agreement, heralded the phasing out of the production of ozone-depleting substances.

“We can draw inspiration from the Montreal Protocol, a shining example of how the world can come together for people and planet,” added the UN chief.

Phasing out ozone-depleting substances has not only helped protect the ozone layer but also contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change.

Moreover, it has protected

human health and ecosystems by preventing some harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth. “Thanks to this global commitment,” Mr. Guterres stated, “the ozone layer is expected to return to its 1980 levels by mid-century.”

“However,” he continued, “this work is not yet done.”

He explained that the landmark Kigali Amendment, which enters into force on 1 January 2019, sets its sights on hydrofluorocarbons; powerful climate-warming gases, still being used in cooling systems throughout the world.

“So far,” Mr. Guterres said, “46 countries have ratified this new instrument,” as he called on all others to show their commitment to a healthier planet and “follow suit.”

“I expect countries to demonstrate significant progress in implementing the Kigali Amendment at the Climate Summit I am convening in September 2019,” the Secretary-General stressed.

For over three decades, the Montreal Protocol has done much more than helped repair the ozone layer.

“It has shown us how environmental governance can respond to science, and how countries can come together to address a shared vulnerability,” said Mr. Guterres.



## Bluetongue virus detected and dealt with in two imported cattle



File image

**The UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has urged farmers to remain vigilant for bluetongue virus after the disease was successfully picked up in two cattle imported from France through our routine post-import testing regime.**

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and the Pirbright Institute

identified the disease in the animals when they were brought to North Yorkshire in England from an assembly centre in Central France, where bluetongue continues to slowly spread.

Bluetongue does not affect people or food safety. The virus is transmitted by midge bites and affects cows, goats, sheep and other camelids such as

llamas. It can reduce milk yield and cause infertility and in the most severe cases is fatal for infected animals. The midges are most active between May and October and not all susceptible animals show immediate signs of contracting the virus.

Action is being taken to ensure the risk of spread of the disease is reduced, with movement restrictions at the affected premises. The two cattle were isolated and have been humanely culled.

Strict rules on the movement of livestock from regions affected by bluetongue are already in place and farmers are reminded that animals imported from these regions must be accompanied by the relevant paperwork to clearly show they meet certain conditions designed to reduce disease risk, such as correct vaccination.

Following the successful interception of the infected animals, the UK remains officially bluetongue-free, the risk of the disease remains low and exports are not affected.

Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer for the UK, Graeme Cooke, said:

“Bluetongue does not pose a threat to human health or food safety, but the disease impacts farming, causing reduced milk yield in cows and infertility in sheep.

“Farmers must remain vigilant and report any suspicions to APHA. Farmers should work with their importer to make sure effective vaccination needs are complied with, source animals responsibly and consider the health status of their own herd if they are not protected

“Movement restrictions will remain in place on the premises for at least several weeks until testing rules out spread via local midges.”

The most recent case of the disease in the UK came in 2007. The UK has been officially free from the disease since July 2011.

# Northern Powerhouse attracts record visitor numbers



Illuminations on Blackpool promenade  
Photo by Mark S Jobling, via Wikimedia

## All Northern Powerhouse regions have seen a jump in overnight stays according to new figures.

Overall visitor numbers across the whole region have increased by around 5% in a year. The highest gains in number of trips however, has been

witnessed by the North East with over 200,000 more visitors to the area than the year before – a remarkable 17% increase.

According to Visit England, in the 6 months to June 2018 the number of overnight stays in the Northern Powerhouse

increased by 4.3% to 33.6 million compared to the same period last year.

People have spent more too – a total of £2.3 billion in fact, an increase on last year's figures.

The UK has enjoyed one of the hottest summers on

record, while data recently published by Visit England shows that 8 out of the 10 most visited cities and towns in England were in the Northern Powerhouse.

Northern Powerhouse Minister, Jake Berry MP, said:

“As a proud Northerner, I'm delighted to see that thousands more people are flocking to the North to share in the culture, natural beauty and entertainment attractions.

“And it's quite easy to see why. There's lots going on for families thanks to investment in landmark seaside attractions like the Spanish City in Whitley Bay and the Blackpool Illuminations in Lancashire, supported by our Coastal Communities Fund.

“As people visit the Northern Powerhouse they're spending billions of pounds too, which means more money for smaller businesses and this protects jobs. I'd encourage more people to visit the North and see for themselves why it's such a great place to enjoy and do business.”

# Rare 16th century painting of Spanish Armada at risk of export



An exceptionally rare painting depicting the defeat of the Spanish Armada, a naval campaign widely regarded to have changed the course of European history, is at risk of being deported from the UK unless a buyer can be found to match the asking price of £210,000.

Minister for Arts, Heritage

and Tourism Michael Ellis has placed a temporary export bar on the 'The Spanish Armada in the Year 1588', by an unknown artist, to provide an opportunity to keep it in the country.

Depictions of the Armada, with the inclusion of its leading historical figures, are exceptionally rare. Experts

believe the painting was produced in around 1600, within a generation of the event.

It shows Queen Elizabeth I watching the naval engagement, accompanied by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. This reflected her personal intervention during

the military campaign, when she rallied her troops through a speech at Tilbury.

In 1588 Philip II of Spain sent an 18,000 strong invasion force of 130 ships to England with the intention of overthrowing the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I and restoring Catholic rule. The defeat of the invading fleet has long been held as one of England's greatest naval victories.



# Golden gates

It was the third Earl of Harrington who introduced these magnificent carriage gates to England to enhance the approach to his then remodelled Elvaston Castle, Derbyshire.

They were reputed to have been removed as spoils of war by Napoleon from a Royal Palace in Madrid and taken by him to Versailles for display. It was after Napoleons defeat in 1819 that the third Earl had them shipped to England.

William Barron's account in the publication 'Head Gardener' stated that the gates were once "placed in front of the castle, within 106 yards of it" and probably marked the entrance to a sweeping gravel drive to the south front.

What is clear however, is that they were moved by Barron to their present position in 1834 and were re-erected, flanked by 15 foot high cast iron railings



made especially for them in the West Midlands.

They have been recently restored and after a detailed paint analysis was carried out, repainted in their original colours.

The Harrington coat of arms sits atop of the main central gate 'A DEO ET REGE' (For God and King).

The entire structure is 115 feet long and 20 feet high and supported at either end by stone pillars faced with Chellaston alabaster and topped with eighteenth century statues depicting Jason and the Golden Fleece and Hercules and the Nemean Lion (inset). [Derbyshire.gov.uk](http://Derbyshire.gov.uk)







# Dry weather support secured for livestock farmers

Farmers affected by this summer's dry weather have been offered further assistance by the UK government.

New flexibility from the EU Commission has been secured, which will help farmers increase the amount of feed they can grow for their livestock.

The dry weather earlier this summer has meant many livestock farmers have not had enough pasture to graze their animals on, with some having to break into their winter feed supplies early.

Farmers will be allowed to

grow grass and other edible forage in areas that are not usually allowed for grazing.

This is after the UK government secured a derogation from the EU's Ecological Focus Area (EFA) winter crop requirements, which stipulates that certain areas must be left fallow or sown with crop mix that cannot be grazed.

This is the latest in a series of practical solutions to help farmers affected by the dry weather, including:

Granting of 89 flexible water abstraction licenses by the Environment Agency

for farmers to safeguard food production and animal welfare. The majority of applications received have been approved.

Publishing guidance for 40 Countryside Stewardship options which can be adjusted for this year without penalty if agreement holders notify Natural England by the end of 2018.

Waiving penalties for farmers who fail to establish EFA catch crops by 20 August.

Communicating to farming groups that they are able to graze fallow land without need for a derogation.

Secretary of State Michael Gove said: "We have had one of the driest summers since modern records began in 1961, and it is only right that we do what we can to support farmers who have been placed under the most pressure.

"I am pleased that the flexibilities announced will offer some help to livestock farmers by opening up new sources of fodder ahead of the winter.

"I am also glad that we are continuing to discuss the industry's ideas for longer-term resilience."

The government will continue to monitor the situation and listen to industry as we move towards the autumn and winter months.

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# Fife named the most enterprising place in Britain for 2018



North East Fife. Photo by StuzzyW at English Wikipedia

## **Small Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst has named the winners of this year's Enterprising Britain Awards.**

Fife in Scotland has been named the UK's most enterprising region and other top accolades have gone to Darwen Aldridge

Community Academy in Lancashire, Teesside University, Hounslow Chamber of Commerce and Fife Council.

Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst said:

"I'm proud to see a wealth of talent, creativity and

innovation across the UK being recognised at the Enterprising Britain Awards. Entrepreneurialism is thriving in the UK, with more than 1,000 businesses starting up every day.

"Through our modern Industrial Strategy, we are boosting productivity by

backing businesses to create good jobs and increase the earning power of people throughout the UK with investment in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future."

Regions across the UK competed for the coveted title of Most Enterprising Place in Britain at the fifteenth Enterprising Britain Awards, with Fife awarded the top honour this year.

In addition to the Most Enterprising Place in Britain award, Fife Council won the Promoting Entrepreneurial Spirit category for its achievements which included supporting young people to develop entrepreneurial skills, get into education, training or employment and creating an environment and programmes that are helping businesses grow.

Fife Council's co-leaders, Cllr David Alexander and Cllr David Ross, said:

"These awards show what can be achieved by applying an innovative approach to supporting businesses. We are fully committed to continually improving the prospects for our young workforce and in supporting the growth of enterprise across Fife."

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# National News Headlines July 2018

## 1st July

- It's war: Tory donor fury at Brexiteers' attacks on business
- Tory education revolution 'has fuelled inequality in our schools'
- MI6 put questions to prisoner waterboarded 83 times by CIA

## 2nd July

- Fury at refusal to ban hospital parking fees
- Brexit: Third customs model devised ahead of cabinet talks
- World Cup 2018: England v Colombia tickets selling for £513 - or more

## 3rd July

- Discredited 'gay cure' therapies to be banned
- MPs pillory Home Office over Windrush scandal
- Treasury preparing to increase fuel duty

## 4th July

- US ambassador: Brexit will succeed if you hold nerve
- Vote Leave broke electoral law, Electoral Commission expected to say
- World Cup 2018: England penalties win over Colombia seen by 24m

## 5th July

- Ousted ad boss Sorrell may be stripped of his £20m bonus
- Amesbury Novichok poisoning: Couple exposed to nerve agent
- Jaguar Land Rover boss: Brexit threatens £80bn UK investment

## 6th July

- Family doctors crisis as job vacancies are at highest ever level
- Wimbledon fans caught in massive meltdown on railways
- French-British deal on Bayeux Tapestry





# National News Headlines July 2018

## 7th July

- WORLD CUP 2018: Three Lions roars back to the charts
- Brexit: Cabinet agrees 'collective' stance on future EU deal
- Amesbury Novichok police operation 'will take months'

## 8th July

- Senior Met Police officer investigated over honours
- President Trump's Scotland visit confirmed
- Voters back May's Brexit deal – but Labour are ahead

## 9th July

- Novichok: Murder inquiry after Dawn Sturgess dies
- Mothercare to close 60 outlets
- Misogyny hate crime in Nottinghamshire gives 'shocking' results

## 10th July

- Challenge to PM moves closer as more MPs quit
- Theresa May's new-look cabinet meets amid Brexit turmoil
- World Cup 2018: Aldi and Lidl will close early if England in final

## 11th July

- Facebook fined £500,000 after firm harvested personal details
- World Cup 2018: Early rush hour ahead of England v Croatia
- Emerging sex disease MG 'could become next superbug'

## 12th July

- Labour bought personal data of 1 million mums
- World Cup 2018: England defeat watched by 26.5m
- Brexit: UK's blueprint for future EU relations to be published



# National News Headlines July 2018

## 13th July

- Asking prices fall by £1.6bn in housing glut
- The SIX elements of Brexit bill that sparked MPs' fury
- Donald Trump and Theresa May meet amid Brexit storm

## 14th July

- Brexit? Whatever you do is OK with me, Trump tells 'terrific Theresa'
- Attenborough 'Boaty McBoatface' to launch
- Trump to play golf at Turnberry as protests continue

## 15th July

- Trump ally admits possible role in Russian hacking
- Mandelson joins Brexiters with attack on May's EU 'humiliation'
- School exclusions 'put children at risk of gang grooming'

## 16th July

- Oh brother! It's a royal welcome for little Louis
- Taxman's plot to trawl your bank account... but not tell you
- Migration figures: EU migration to UK lowest since 2013, ONS says

## 17th July

- Migration from outside EU hits a six-year high
- Transgender van driver sues for gig economy discrimination
- Millions to face hosepipe ban in north-west England

## 18th July

- Rebels lose bid to lock UK in customs union
- Fined...but Brexit campaigners deny breaking election rules
- Cliff Richard: Singer wins BBC privacy case at High Court



# National News Headlines July 2018

## 19th July

- Thousands more dying as dementia rates soar
- Cliff Richard: BBC would be 'crazy' to appeal against ruling
- Salisbury poisoning: Police 'identify Novichok suspects'

## 20th July

- NHS 'crisis' as heatwave takes a toll
- Battle of Britain RAF Spitfire pilot Geoffrey Wellum dies
- UK government borrowing at 11-year low

## 21st July

- Fear fewer villains will go to prison in justice cash crisis
- Novichok victim Charlie is released from hospital
- Smart meters to cut energy bills by just £11, say MPs

## 22nd July

- Javid is forced to backtrack as he links Corbyn to Holocaust denial
- Number of NHS beds for mental health patients slumps by 30%
- Sensitive government files leaked online

## 23rd July

- Jobs bonanza as economy surges after Brexit vote
- Tax burden is highest for 50 years
- Islamic State 'Beatles' duo: UK 'will not block death penalty'

## 24th July

- Carrots under threat as crops 'parched to bone'
- UK heatwave: Temperatures set to rise as alert continues
- Pay rises expected for public sector staff





## 25th July

- Public sector's 3.5% pay rise is the biggest for a decade
- Warning cars could lose grip as heat threatens to melt tarmac
- New planning rules 'leave green belt open to developers'

## 26th July

- Call for shops to shut to mark end of WWI
- Boris: Who'd care if drones had killed the jihadi Beatles?
- Huge drop in EU teachers coming to Scotland

## 27th July

- We are ready for war, Iran threatens Trump
- From Me To You... Sir Paul returns to Cavern with a free gig for lucky fans
- £93bn wiped off Facebook shares after data scandal

## 28th July

- Don't expect EU nations to back you, May is told
- MPs: Hit internet giants with hefty 'fake news' taxes
- Personal insolvencies rise to highest level in six years

## 29th July

- No-deal Brexit 'will put cancer patients at risk'
- Anger over use of Brexit ads in aftermath of MP's murder
- Farmers in crisis summit over food supply fears

## 30th July

- End of the road for white van man in driverless revolution
- Vote against my party, says Mugabe
- Mirror and Express owner slumps to £113m loss

## 31st July

- Cheaper NHS drugs 'as safe and effective'
- How trees and plants help save UK £1bn a year on health
- Make social media giants accountable on user data - MP



# National News Headlines August 2018

## 1st August

- Record £5.2bn paid in death tax as net widens
- £10bn nuclear plant may be shelved after talks with foreign buyers collapse
- Jeremy Corbyn apologises over 2010 Holocaust event

## 2nd August

- Council in crisis says it can't pay for care services
- Phone and internet use: Number of mobile calls drops for first time
- United Utilities calls off summer hosepipe ban in England

## 3rd August

- Left split over anti-Semitism row
- Carney: No-deal Brexit risk 'uncomfortably high'
- Low levels of air pollution linked to changes in the heart

## 4th August

- More rises on the cards as interest rates hit 10-year high
- Leading scientists back call for Brexit deal vote
- May's Brexit plans are a threat to EU, says Barnier

## 5th August

- Cable in secret talks with Blair ally over new Lib-Lab pact
- NHS told: give trans patients equal access to fertility service
- Watson: Labour faces 'shame' over antisemitism

## 6th August

- Sepsis alert after 100 died when doctors missed signs
- 'We could cut loan rate if economy stalls'
- Changing the organ donation system to opt-out is long overdue



# National News Headlines August 2018

## 7th August

- Britons flee at midnight in Algarve wildfire panic
- Hunt to team up with EU to oppose new Iran sanctions
- Summer 'feel-good factor' helps boost sales of new cars

## 8th August

- Boris Johnson burka row: Tories should ditch MP, peer says
- British Gas increases energy prices again
- Man grieved at wrong grave for 30 years due to misplaced headstone

## 9th August

- US to hit Russia with sanctions over Salisbury Novichok attack
- Tories want 50% of their general election candidates to be women
- Big rise in year-long waits for surgery in England

## 10th August

- Britain hails US sanctions on Russia over spy attack
- Low interest rates 'for 20 years'
- House of Fraser bought by Sports Direct for £90m

## 11th August

- IDS blasts bosses 'for not even bothering to find British workers'
- Thousands are left stranded by Ryanair strike
- Ex-Labour leader condemns Corbyn over anti-semitism

## 12th August

- Brexit shift: more than 100 Leave seats now back Remain
- Plea for bells to toll worldwide on war centenary
- Young people spending seven hours a day glued to their mobile phones





# National News Headlines August 2018

## 13th August

- Passengers warned of 3.5% increase in rail fares next year
- Boris demands a stamp duty cut to ease the housing crisis
- Party chief faces probe over vote deal row

## 14th August

- Alarm over £23m rip-off by crooks in pension scams
- Westminster car crash: Man arrested on suspicion of terror offences
- UK unemployment at lowest since 1975

## 15th August

- Eurosceptics line up a rival Brexit blueprint
- UK inflation rate rises for first time since November
- Chief executive pay jumps 11% to almost £4m last year

## 16th August

- Corbyn is unfit to be PM, says Olympian at 1972 Munich Games
- EU fears Brexit talks are being bugged
- Barely half marks needed for top A-level grade

## 17th August

- Corbyn poised to back down on anti-Semitism
- Voters would regret a 'no-deal' Brexit for generations – Hunt
- Prisons minister Rory Stewart: I'll resign if drugs and violence don't go down

## 18th August

- Brexit rebels to fight new battle for Britain
- Green light for 'latte levy' tax on plastic
- Rise in type 2 diabetes in young people in England and Wales



# National News Headlines August 2018

## 19th August

- One in five arrested in Britain are foreigners
- Uber judge steps aside over husband's links to firm
- Labour suspends ex-MP over remarks on antisemitism row

## 20th August

- 'Car crash' Corbyn under pressure over foreign trips
- Axe business rates system to help shops urges Cable
- I'll quit: Minister's pledge if his 'bad jail' reforms fail

## 21st August

- Extra police vow to combat knife crime
- End of the bailout for Greece but cuts go on
- Hillsborough charges against Sir Norman Bettison dropped

## 22nd August

- Insurance fraud drops as bogus claims worth £1.3billion are rumbled
- Trump: Second meeting with North Korea's Kim 'most likely'
- Top magistrate: We need more JPs with a criminal record

## 23rd August

- I paid hush money but I didn't know till after, Trump fends off claim
- Fury as alcohol firms cash in on heavy drinkers
- GCSE results rise despite tougher exams

## 24th August

- Four-fold rise in illegal migrants caught at border
- Corbyn in new row over anti-Semitism
- Patient waits 62 hours for ambulance



## 25th August

- Bank Holiday's £6bn shot in arm for the economy
- Jewish families 'ready to quit UK if Corbyn wins next election'
- Women allowed to take abortion pill in their home

## 26th August

- Fun rains for bank holiday party Brits
- Hammond plans to hammer top-earners' pensions to fund NHS
- Cable: Lib Dems need non-MP leader

## 27th August

- Crisis summit as ministers hit out at Hammond over 'no deal'
- Brexiters flood Tories to fight May plan
- Two thirds will blame ministers for a bad deal

## 28th August

- Extreme weather set to add another £85 to grocery bill
- UN slams Burma's Nobel winner Suu Kyi in genocide investigation
- Theresa May pledges Africa investment boost after Brexit

## 29th August

- Scandal of jail let-offs to cut prison overcrowding
- Trump: Google is rigged against me
- UK child migrants sent to Australia sue government over abuse

## 30th August

- Former SNP leader Salmond resigns over sex pest claims
- Africa deals will not make up for Brexit damage, May is warned
- Ministers to ban energy drink sales to children

## 31st August

- Labour veteran Field resigns as he accuses party of anti-Semitism
- Payday loans firm Wonga collapses into administration
- Lack of school places raises 'emergency' measures fear







# National News Headlines September 2018

## 7th September

- No-deal Brexit will mean spending cuts claims Hammond
- u-turn on pledge to slash tax for self-employed
- Tony Blair doubts Labour can be 'taken back by moderates'

## 8th September

- Chuka Umunna tells Jeremy Corbyn to 'call off the dogs'
- Russian hit men flew to Geneva six times before Skripal attack
- Half of landline calls to elderly are cold-callers

## 9th September

- Bombshell poll reveals massive union backing for new EU vote
- Police to get high-tech test kits in blitz on acid attackers
- 'Use AI in NHS, or find 600,000 more staff'

## 10th September

- Labour under Corbyn is racist insists Chuka
- 'Hypocrisy' of 31 union leaders on more than £100,000 a year
- Brexit plan: 80 MPs will reject Chequers deal, says ex-minister

## 11th September

- UK wages rise faster than expected
- Overseas students should 'stay in migration target'
- US warns Syria over new chemical strikes

## 12th September

- May facing call to scrap 'pointless £56bn HS2'
- Hammond hints at £160-a-year fuel tax raid on drivers
- Skripal poisoning: Putin says suspects 'civilians, not criminals'



# National News Headlines September 2018

## 13th September

- Outrage as attacks on the elderly will NOT be made a hate crime
- Brown: We risk sleepwalking into new crash
- No-deal Brexit won't bring back mobile roaming charges - minister

## 14th September

- Cost of buying up land for HS2 triples to £3bn
- Brexit: Bank makes property crash warning
- Court: GCHQ breached privacy rights

## 15th September

- Women warned: Save more now to beat the pensions gender gap
- Welby's bid to pay families' £400m of Wonga loans
- NHS bosses to fix latest crisis: abusive patients

## 16th September

- New probe launched into 'broken' rail industry
- Give Britain a new referendum on Brexit, says Sadiq Khan
- Archer: If I were a Northerner, I'd vote for Corbyn

## 17th September

- Ministers not trusted to handle immigration
- Migration is a strain on public services, say half of voters
- Brexit: PM says 'it's either my deal or no deal'

## 18th September

- We must all invest in a fund to pay for elderly care, says health chief
- Brexit migration report: 'No preference' for EU workers
- Gene breakthrough could help identify those at risk of high blood pressure





# National News Headlines September 2018

## 19th September

- Social housing sector to get £2bn for thousands of homes
- Hard-Left plot to stop Watson derailing the Corbyn project
- Storm Ali: Woman dies as caravan is blown off cliff

## 20th September

- Two dead as 100mph winds unleash chaos
- Firms face £819m hike in business rates
- Brexit: EU leaders warn time is running out for a deal

## 21st September

- 3,000 bank branches closed in four years
- RAF jets scramble to see off UK-bound Russian bombers
- Brexit: Chequers plan still 'credible', says minister

## 22nd September

- Blocking UK's exit will cost Labour the election
- Fewer homes built than a decade ago
- Jeremy Hunt: Don't mistake politeness for weakness

## 23rd September

- We must back members on new Brexit vote, Watson tells Corbyn
- Crashing out of Europe risks breakup of UK, ministers warn
- Labour plans holiday home tax raid and the return of rates

## 24th September

- Despair at war on fraud as only one in 20 cases solved
- Bank boss calls PPI claimants fraudsters
- Labour conference to debate option of fresh Brexit vote



# National News Headlines September 2018

## 25th September

- Winter woe as energy hikes put £70 on bill
- Blair: May threatens to plunge us into abyss
- Corbyn's UK would face economic 'deep freeze'

## 26th September

- Implants let paraplegic patients walk again
- May backs visas based on wealth and skills
- Labour row on Final Say vote to stay in the EU

## 27th September

- Phone game app 'could spot early sign of dementia'
- Maddie detectives ask for more cash to extend hunt
- Skripal suspect 'was made Hero of Russia' by President Putin

## 28th September

- 10 million Britons fear rising winter fuel bills
- Corbyn tells Brussels he'll sink any deal PM strikes
- 'No doubt they are Russian spies, even if they are incompetent'

## 29th September

- Voters urge Tories to unite and back May on Brexit deal
- 'Panicking' stores launch sales that could last till Xmas
- Corbyn aides get bumper pay awards of up to 26%

## 30th September

- Toyota in 'no-deal' warning
- May plans 'Festival of Britain' to boost post-Brexit pride
- Tory fury as party faces huge fine for 'disgraceful' data breach



