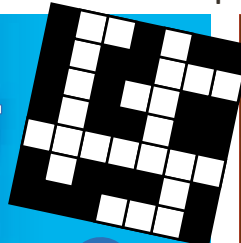


THE UK'S  
CHILDREN'S  
NEWSPAPER  
WITH MORE THAN  
2.6 MILLION\*  
READERS!

ASHLEY  
BANJO  
INTERVIEW  
P17



THREE  
PAGES OF  
PUZZLES  
P19-21



GORILLAS  
GET COVID  
P12



# FirstNews

Issue 762 £2.25 22 – 28 January 2021

HELPING  
THE UK GROW



NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

# THE YUCK

# FACTOR



But *FirstNews* readers say they'd be **happy to eat insects**

Your views p16

**INSECTS** could be creeping onto your dinner plate soon.

Last week, dried yellow mealworm, the larvae of the mealworm beetle, were passed as safe to eat by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

It's the first step before a decision is made about whether the bugs can be used as ingredients in snacks like protein bars and biscuits, smoothies, pasta and burgers. When dried, the maggot-like insect is said to taste a lot like peanuts.

It's thought that insect farming will

by editor in chief **Nicky Cox**

grow hugely in the next few years. That's because creepy-crawlies are a good source of protein, fibre and fat, which we need in our diets. Plus, insect-based food has long been seen as part of the solution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions in food production. Unlike fish and livestock, such as cows and sheep, the farming of insects puts a lot less strain on the environment.

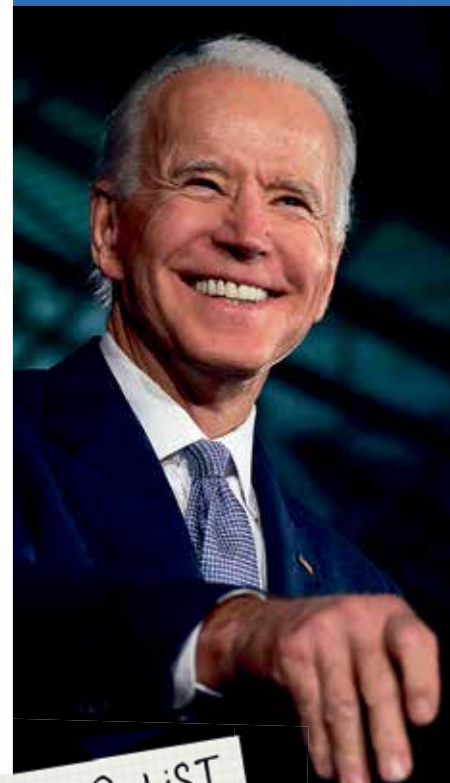
About 2,000 insect species are already in the diets of about two billion people

worldwide. But it's thought people in the UK and across Europe might need to overcome the 'yuck' factor before insects become a normal part of what we eat in our countries.

However, *First News* readers have given the idea a thumbs-up. We asked: "Would you eat insects if it helped to save the planet?" More than 500 of you responded to our poll, with over half (57%) saying you'd be happy to eat insects as part of your diet.

Next on the list for approval by the EFSA are crickets and locusts!

WILL  
PRESIDENT  
BIDEN BE  
GOOD FOR  
THE WORLD?



Turn to p3 to find out what is top of the President's 'to-do list'

## 2. QUICK NEWS

### SAVVY SHOPPING

Lidl has been named the UK's cheapest supermarket of 2020. The consumer group Which? compared eight different supermarkets in the study. It looked at 45 own-label and branded products from each shop and found Lidl was the least expensive. It only narrowly beat Aldi, with a price difference of just 34p.



### AUGMENTED ATTENBOROUGH



Sir David Attenborough is set to appear as a hologram. The famous broadcaster is going to be transformed into a virtual tour guide for a new augmented reality app. The app aims to showcase the powers of 5G technology and how it can help us connect with the natural world. The hologram will be part of an immersive experience, alongside the new BBC programme *The Green Planet*.

### KINDER FOOD

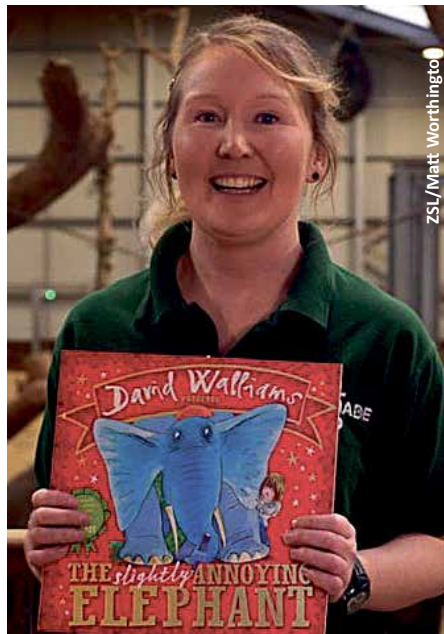
LEON has become the first fast food chain to introduce a carbon-neutral burger and fries. It means that, for any carbon emissions created by the production of the food, the company will give money to help the environment in other ways. The chain says it will fund forest conservation projects in South America and help to create forests in the UK.

# QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

### ZOO TAILS

ZSL London and Whipsnade zoos are hosting virtual bedtime stories, read by zookeepers. Each weekend until 21 February, a different animal-inspired story will be told. *Tails from the Zoo* will be shared via the zoos' Facebook pages at 6:30pm every Saturday and Sunday. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.



### DOG FINE

A man has been fined after his dog attacked a deer in Richmond Park, London. The incident was caught on a cyclist's camera. The deer had to be put down because of the injuries. The dog's owner, Franck Hiribarne, said he was shocked and very sorry about what happened. He's been fined a total of £602. Police have warned people to be very careful with their dogs around deer.

### FREE BROADBAND

Thousands of families are being offered free broadband to help with online home learning. Internet provider Hyperoptic has teamed up with 37 local authorities across the UK to help those who have no internet or a poor connection. The free broadband will be available until the end of the summer term.

### CUT THE CAMEO

Actor Macaulay Culkin has supported fans who want to take Donald Trump out of the movie *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York*. Mr Trump featured in the film when he was just a businessman, but now people are calling for the former president's cameo to be cut. Macaulay, who played Kevin McCallister in the movie, has tweeted his agreement. What do you think?

### GOODBYE QUEEN

One of the Tower of London's beloved ravens is believed to have died. Keepers say 'queen' raven Merlina went missing just before Christmas and has not been seen since, leading them to think she has passed away. There is a legend that if the ravens ever leave the tower, the kingdom will fall. Thankfully there are still six ravens left at the Tower.

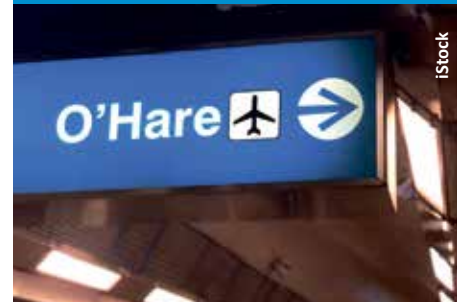
### GIANT DONALD



In other Donald Trump news, a giant balloon of the president has been bought by the Museum of London. The 6m inflatable, which shows Trump as a baby, took to the skies above London in protest at his visit back in 2018.

### AIRPORT ARREST

A man has been arrested after apparently living in an airport for three months. Aditya Singh, from California, is said to have been staying at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Staff rang the police when they caught him using a stolen ID badge. The man said he'd ended up staying at the airport after becoming too scared to fly home because of the coronavirus pandemic.



### BURNS NIGHT



On 25 January, Scotland will be paying tribute to one of its national heroes – Robert Burns. The poet was born in 1759 and is famous for works including *Auld Lang Syne*, which is often sung on New Year's Eve. People traditionally mark the day with a Burns supper, featuring lots of Scottish food and drink.

### FEELING HOT, HOT, HOT

Data from NASA shows last year's incredibly hot weather has officially made the past decade the warmest on record. The global temperature is now around 1.2°C above the 1850-1900 average. The increasing temperatures continue to show the effects of climate change on the planet.



# 3. BIG NEWS



## JOE BIDEN'S TO-DO LIST

AS First News went to press Joe Biden was due to become the 46th President of the United States. A lot has been said about what he might do, but what is on his list for America and the world?

### CORONAVIRUS

He has promised to roll out 100m vaccine doses within his first 100 days in office (by the end of April).

He has called the Trump administration's vaccine roll-out a "dismal failure", so all eyes will be on him to see if he hits his target.

### ENVIRONMENT

Mr Biden has said he will rejoin the Paris Agreement, the global pledge to tackle climate change. He wants the US to reach 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2050.

He is also planning to invest \$2tn in clean energy technology like solar and wind energy.

### ECONOMY

Mr Biden has a \$1.9tn relief package to help boost America. He proposes giving \$1tn to people (\$1,400 each), \$440bn to help small businesses and \$415bn to fight COVID-19.

He also wants to double the lowest wage to \$15 an hour.

### IMMIGRATION

Joe Biden's chief of staff says Mr Biden will end the 'Muslim ban' in which people from several countries were banned from travelling to the US.

Mr Biden has also stated he will stop spending money on building a wall between the US and Mexico.

## ACTIVITY DROPS IN LOCKDOWN

**SPORT** England's latest survey shows that young people's physical activity has fallen.

The survey, which covers September 2019 to July 2020, shows a 1.9% (86,500 people) decrease compared with the same period the year before, although it is better than two years ago. Some 44.9% of children and young people (3.2m) took part in physical activity for at least 60 minutes a day.

The study shows boys were more likely to be active than girls, but that girls adapted better to finding new ways to exercise during lockdown. It also highlighted that children from richer families are more active than those from poorer homes. The pandemic has had a big impact on activity levels, but people like Joe Wicks have been helping to keep kids active.



Joe Wicks had a funny moment recently when he let out a loud fart during one of his live workout classes. Awkward!

## MOUNTAIN CONQUERED!



**NEPALESE** climber Nirmal Purja and his team have become the first mountaineers to climb to the top of K2 in winter.

The mountain is 8,611m tall, making it the second highest in the world after Mount Everest. Nirmal said: "What a journey. I'm humbled to say that, as a team, we have summited the magnificent K2 in extreme winter conditions. We set out to make the impossible possible."

## BITCOIN BLUNDER

**A MAN** has forgotten his password – which might cost him \$250 million!

Stefan Thomas has 7,002 bitcoins, worth nearly a quarter of a billion dollars, in an Iron Key wallet. Bitcoin is a digital type of money and the Iron Key is a digital wallet that needs a password to open it.

But Stefan has forgotten his password and has ten tries before the data corrupts and the money is lost forever. He has tried eight times to put in the right password but can't remember it. Stefan seems to have accepted the money is gone, saying: "Time heals all wounds."



Bitcoin is virtual so it doesn't actually look like a coin!

# 4. NEWS IN PICTURES

## WASHINGTON, DC, USA



Getty

THE US Capitol Building is prepared for the inauguration ceremony of president-elect Joe Biden. Approximately 191,500 US flags were placed along the National Mall to represent the American people who were unable to travel to Washington, DC for the ceremony. For more on the inauguration see p3.

## SGOGE, BULGARIA



Getty

RUBBISH including plastic bottles floats on the Iskar River. Heavy rainfall has caused water levels to rise throughout Bulgaria, and rubbish is building up near a hydroelectric plant on the Iskar, the longest river in the country.

## MISSISSIPPI, USA



Getty

NASA tested its Space Launch System rocket, a core part of the Artemis I mission that will take humans back to the moon for the first time since the 1970s. The eight-minute test of the 'megarocket' ended when the engines shut down after just a minute. Teams are studying what caused the early shutdown.

## LONDON, UK



ZSL London Zoo

ZSL London Zoo marked Winnie-the-Pooh Day (Monday 18 January) with the release of rare archive images taken during the zoo's almost 200-year history. The historic zoo has renewed its urgent call for public support to feed and care for its 18,000 animals during the nationwide lockdown.

## LIVORNO, ITALY



Getty

A PRIEST blesses animals during an outdoor evening mass dedicated to Saint Anthony Abbot. Every year on 17 January, churches in Italy celebrate a mass, open to pets, in honour of Saint Anthony, the 4th-century Egyptian hermit and patron saint of animals and the farmer.

# 5. NEWS IN PICTURES



## PARIS, FRANCE

Getty

IT took Aurélien Fontenoy, a French trial-biking athlete, 30 minutes to work his way up 33 floors and 768 steps on a bike without once putting his feet on the ground. Aurélien carried out the challenge for a charity that cares for children with serious illnesses.



## JILIN, CHINA

Getty

TWO locals made a bull-shaped snow sculpture on the bank of the Songhua River. It took four days to complete the 7m-long and 4.8m-high bull sculpture to welcome the Year of the Ox.



## TIWANAKU, BOLIVIA

Getty

BOLIVIA'S president has unveiled new archaeological finds from the ruins of the ancient city of Tiwanaku.



## IZMIR, TURKEY

Getty

A DRONE photo shows a flock of flamingos on Çakalburnu Lagoon. Huge flocks of the birds spend the winter months at the lagoon every year.



## WENCHUAN, CHINA

Getty

GIANT pandas play in the snow in the Wolong National Nature Reserve.



# 3 ISSUES FOR £1

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**TV chef Jamie Oliver and footballer Marcus Rashford are among those calling for a review of free school meals.**

A group of campaigners has written to Boris Johnson to urge the Government to look at what it is offering struggling families during the pandemic.

In England and Scotland, any child in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 can apply to have free school meals if they go to a state school. While schools are shut, children should still be able to get these meals at home. But lots of people are saying that the food parcels being given

out are simply not good enough.

Marcus and Jamie want to improve this and help end child food poverty for good before the summer holidays. The duo are joined in their mission by many other top chefs and actor Dame Emma Thompson, as well as 40 charities and educational leaders.

In a letter organised by the Food Foundation charity, the group asks the Government to look at the free

school meal policy and find ways to make it better. This includes giving more funding, looking at the quality of the meals provided and seeing how the coronavirus has affected disadvantaged families.

A Downing Street spokesperson said the letter had been received, adding that: "The Prime Minister has been clear that no child will ever go hungry as a result of the pandemic".



**TEACHERS could be among the next group of people to be offered one of the coronavirus vaccines.**

The vaccines minister, Nadhim Zahawi, has said key workers such as teachers, police officers and shop workers should be next on the list for the jab. He explained that's because they could be more likely to come into contact with the virus at work.

At the moment, the Government is working through the first phase of the vaccine roll-out, which is expected to last until spring. Frontline NHS staff, people in care homes and those above the age of 50 are being given the jab first, as they are considered the most at risk from COVID-19. Mr Zahawi said he'll be working closely with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to decide who gets the vaccine in the second phase of the roll-out. "It is vitally important that education staff are protected as soon as possible," the National Education Union said.



**HOLD on to your hats, folks, as a seriously speedy bullet train is being developed in China.**

A slick 21-metre locomotive that can reach a top speed of 620km/h (385mph) has been unveiled in Chengdu by researchers at Southwest Jiaotong University. The train is so fast you could travel from London to Edinburgh in just over an hour (a journey that normally takes more than five hours!).

The bullet train uses high-temperature,

superconducting maglev technology. This is where two sets of magnets work together to reduce friction and move the train quickly and smoothly.

Experts are now looking to combine the maglev technology with vacuum-tube technology to see if they can make the train go even faster – possibly more than 1,000km/h (620mph)!

**WOW!**

**THE very first bullet train was developed in Japan in 1964.**

The Tokaido Shinkansen opened just before the Tokyo Olympics and was so fast it was nicknamed 'the bullet train'. It took people between the cities of Tokyo and Osaka in record time. Now the Shinkansen is one of the country's most popular high-speed railway networks.





# 8. BIG NEWS



## GOT YOUR VACCINE PASSPORT?



### THE United Nations has said that the coronavirus pandemic could mean an increase in child labour, after a big drop over the last decade.

In 2000, it was estimated that 246 million kids around the world were in work. By 2016, this had fallen to 152 million.

While that's a huge amount of progress, 152 million is still a very big number, and means that one in ten children are still caught up in work.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) said that 72 million children are working in Africa and 62 million are working in Asia and the Pacific.

While the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to "reverse years of progress", Guy Ryder, head of the ILO, said it wasn't too late for that to change.

"This year is an opportunity for governments to step up and achieve Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (an end to child labour by 2025), by taking concrete actions to eliminate child labour for good."

### BIG tech companies are working together to try to create digital 'vaccine passports' that could help people return to travel, work and school.

Health and tech companies, including Microsoft, are teaming up to create the digital passport – a digital copy of a person's immunisation records stored in a digital wallet. The Vaccination Credential Initiative (VCI) aims to allow people to show proof that they have had a COVID-19 jab.

It's thought that a secure, digital record of your vaccine record may be required as people start to return to work and school, and to travel abroad. It could also be required, along with your ticket, to get into a concert or theatre.

Joan Harvey, president of care solutions at Evernorth, one of the companies involved in the VCI, said: "A secure, convenient solution to verify COVID-19 vaccination will

play an important role in making sure we can all return to work, school and life safely. And to do it in a certified way, where the consumer owns the data."

The group will have to address concerns that not everyone has access to a smartphone, or that not everyone will have had their vaccine yet, which may lead to discrimination. Privacy International says: "Until everyone has access to an effective vaccine, any system requiring a passport for entry or service will be unfair."

The VCI says it is in talks with governments around the world about its plan.

## STATUES TO BE PROTECTED



Last year, protesters in Bristol illegally removed a statue of former slave owner Edward Colston

### PLANS to protect Britain's statues from "baying [angry] mobs" have been announced, but the proposals have been described as a "distraction".

In an article in *The Telegraph*, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government Robert Jenrick wrote that Britain shouldn't try to edit or hide its past, and announced that he would be protecting statues better against removal.

Any changes to statues will need permission now, and a Government minister will be given the final decision.

This, Mr Jenrick explained, was because the Government believes that "monuments are almost always best explained and not taken and hidden away".

Steve Reed MP, Labour's Shadow Communities Secretary, said that: "The Government's focus right now should be on the fight against COVID-19," and that Labour would be studying the new laws around statues closely.

Dr Halima Begum, director of race equality group the Runnymede Trust, said that the plans were "an attempt to distract from this Government's terrible failings around COVID-19".

## WOW!

ARCHAEOLOGISTS in Indonesia have discovered the world's oldest known cave painting of an animal.

The picture, which is of a pig, is believed to have been drawn at least 45,500 years ago.

The archaeologists could find even older paintings, as there are many unexplored caves in the region.





# 9. WORLD NEWS

## NETHERLANDS



### ● Government quits

The entire Dutch government has resigned, after a scandal that left thousands of families poorer. Many of those who received government support were told by tax authorities that they were criminals and were forced to pay back tens of thousands of euros. Many of the 'crimes' were small mistakes, such as missing signatures on official paperwork. Prime Minister Mark Rutte (above) said that "the buck stops here." His party will continue to function as a 'caretaker government' dealing with the pandemic, until elections can be held in March.

## RUSSIA



### ● Opposition leader arrested

Alexei Navalny, the leader of the main opposition party, has been arrested on his return to the country. Before returning, Mr Navalny said he was "extremely happy" to be going home, and that he "wasn't afraid". His supporters gathered at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport, but his plane was diverted at the last minute to a different airport, where police were waiting for him. Until now, Mr Navalny had been recovering in Germany, after he collapsed on a plane in Russia last August. He was eventually taken to Berlin, where doctors discovered that he had been poisoned with a chemical called Novichok. Mr Navalny has been very critical of Russian leader Vladimir Putin, but President Putin and the Russian government have denied any involvement with the poisoning.



## JAPAN



### ● Hired to do nothing

Shoji Morimoto is available to hire, if you need someone to do pretty much nothing! For 10,000 yen (£70), he will join you, should you need a companion who can't do much more than enter a shop with you, stand in a queue for you, or listen to you talk. Demand has been huge for Mr Morimoto's services, and he does nothing with three or four people a day. "I'm not a friend or an acquaintance," he says. "I'm free of the annoying things that go with relationships but I can ease people's feelings of loneliness."



## USA

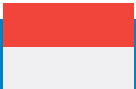


### ● Impeached again

Donald Trump has become the first president in US history to be impeached (charged with misconduct in office) twice. Mr Trump was charged with 'incitement of insurrection' (encouraging people to attack government) after the riot in Washington, DC on 6 January when five people died. Representative Nancy Pelosi, who holds the role of Speaker of the House, said that President Trump "must go" and was a "danger" to the US. The final vote was 232 in support of impeachment, 197 against. Of the 232 in support, ten were from the same Republican Party as Donald Trump. Next, the US Senate will hold a trial and vote on whether to convict Mr Trump. For that to happen, at least 67 senators will have to vote that he is guilty. The leader of the Senate has said that the trial will begin this week, even though Mr Trump will have already ended his term and left the job.



## INDONESIA



### ● Monkeys go for riches

Researchers have found that the thieving monkeys who live in Bali's Uluwatu Temple can spot high-value items. The macaques in the ancient Hindu site will pinch possessions from tourists, refusing to return them until they're offered food as payment. Scientists at the University of Lethbridge in Canada say the macaques will target mobile phones and wallets – and demand more food for them. The lead author of the study says that the behaviour has been "maintained across generations of monkeys for at least 30 years".



## ITALY



### ● Dictionary addition

In Italy, elderly men often gather at roadwork sites to comment on the work being done. The men are known as Umarell, and can be seen in small groups, usually with their hands behind their backs. Last week, the Umarell were officially recognised when the word was added to the popular Zanichelli dictionary.



# HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

THIS week (Wednesday 27 January) is Holocaust Memorial Day – the day when we remember the millions of people killed by the Nazi regime, including six million Jews. Why does this day feel so important to me? After all, World War Two ended decades before I was born. Isn't it just another piece of history?



Keren's great-grandparents and great-aunts in Warsaw, around 1913. Her great-grandfather died in Auschwitz

The older I get, the more important it feels to have a focus to remember the horrors of the past. When I was growing up, we didn't talk about the Holocaust in my Jewish family. Maybe it was because my great-grandfather and all his family, from young children to old men, had been killed by the Nazis. My grandfather's heart was broken when he learned of their fate. He died ten years before I was born, but his trauma was passed down in silence.

I'll think of my great-grandfather on Holocaust Memorial Day, and, on my mother's side, my great-grandmother's sister, whose name was Rachel. I have a letter written by her just before the war, thanking my great-grandmother for sending her a warm winter coat, sending dried mushrooms from the forest in return. That was the last letter received from her, and most probably she was killed by the Nazis as well.

When I was writing my book, *What We're Scared Of*, I felt very close to Rachel, because I spent hours talking to Mala Tribich, a Holocaust survivor whose testimony is part of the book. Mala came from the same part of Poland as my great-grandmother. Her extraordinary story, in which she survived horrendous ordeals again and again, gave me an insight into what lay behind the silence of my childhood. Listening felt like a privilege, and made me feel stronger, prouder as a Jewish person and even more determined to fight against prejudice and racism of all kinds.



Mala Tribich and WW2 veteran Ian Forsyth speak at the UK Holocaust Memorial Day commemorative ceremony in London in 2020

On Holocaust Memorial Day, Mala – now 90 – would normally be speaking in schools, so determined is she to tell her story to as many people as possible. This year she'll be doing that on video, because of the lockdown. I hope that my book will bring her testimony to many more readers, alongside my story about twin girls, living in London, a story which shows that the terrors of the past can all too easily translate into anti-Jewish hate today.

## REMEMBERING LIVES LOST

On Holocaust Memorial Day I'll be remembering the six million Jews who died, and all the other victims of the Nazis – including Romany people and gay people. I'll be thinking about the victims of other genocides [murder of large groups or races] that have taken place since WW2, in Cambodia, Darfur, Bosnia and Rwanda. I'll be thinking about people suffering persecution [cruel and unfair treatment], especially the Uighur Muslims, who are being subjected to horrific treatment in China. I'll be asking myself how I can lobby [campaign] on their behalf. As the UK's Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis said last month about the Uighurs: "At this very moment, an unfathomable mass atrocity is being perpetrated. Though the task is great, none of us are free to desist from it. As Nelson Mandela himself said: 'It always seems impossible until it's done.'"

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is 'Be the light in the darkness'. In a dark time for humanity, it's a challenge for all of us.



The Hall of Names in the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum in Jerusalem, which displays photographs and names of Jewish Holocaust victims

**What We're Scared Of**  
by Keren David is out now



# HIGH VOLTAGE ATTACK!



Electric eels gather for the hunt in the Iriri River in the Brazilian state of Pará

**YOU'VE** heard of packs of wolves and pods of killer whales. Now you can add parties of eels to the list of animals that hunt in gangs.

Scientists working on the banks of the Iriri River in the Brazilian Amazon River basin discovered a small lake filled with more than 100 large adult electric eels. Many of them were at least 120 centimetres long.

This was a curious finding, as electric eels were thought to prefer being alone. But what the team spotted next was even more startling: the eels were working together in a large circle to herd thousands of small fish called tetras into tightly-packed balls.

Once they had done that, groups of up to ten eels split off to form hunting parties.

These smaller groups then surrounded the ball of tetras and launched simultaneous electric attacks. The electric shocks they fired sent the tetras flying out of the water. When they splashed back down, the tiny fish were stunned and unable to move. At that point, the hunting party easily picked off their prey.

The eel hunting parties were found to only operate at dusk and dawn. Each hunting mission lasted around an hour and involved between five and seven high-voltage attacks.



The eels encircle the tiny tetras

## DID YOU KNOW?

**ELECTRIC** eels are so called because they have special organs that can release electric charges of up to 860 volts.

They have poor eyesight, so they release a weak electric signal that acts as a type of radar system to spot both predators and potential mates. And although they're called eels, they're actually a type of knifefish. There are about 50 species of knifefish in Central and South America.

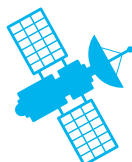


L. Sousa

For most of the day and night, the eels were found to be lying almost entirely still, only occasionally rising to the surface to breathe.

Lead researcher C David de Santana of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History said it was "an extraordinary discovery" that had never been documented before. The research was published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution*.

## GOODBYE, GALILEO



**THE UK** has ended its participation in the European Union's Galileo sat-nav system.

As a result of Brexit, British firms will no longer be able to supply navigation payloads. These are the most important parts of the satellite and produce the signals the Galileo network sends back down to Earth. The last payload from the

UK was shipped by Surrey Satellite Technology in November.

The one-year transition period following the UK's departure from the EU ended on 31 December 2020. As Galileo is a security programme, only companies from the 27 member states are allowed to be involved in the sensitive work.

The Government says it is planning a British equivalent to Galileo.

## SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING

**SCIENTISTS** at Harvard University have created robot fish that can realistically recreate the movements of a school of fish.

Seven robotic fish, known as Bluebots, have been created. They have cameras in their eyes and LED lights to sense direction and distance.

It took about a year of testing in water tanks to get the Bluebots to perform various actions successfully. For instance, they can swim around in circles without crashing into each other, or scatter to the edges of the tank as if a predator has appeared.

Florian Berlinger, who is the lead author of the research published in *Science Robotics*, says the Bluebots could be useful for search operations and monitoring underwater environments.



Self-organizing Systems Research Group



ESA - P. Carril

# GORILLAS GET COVID-19



San Diego Zoo/Facebook

**GORILLAS** at San Diego Zoo Safari Park in California have tested positive for the virus that causes COVID-19.

Keepers at the zoo tested the poo of the gorilla troop at the park after noticing two of the gorillas were coughing. The results showed they were carrying the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. Experts think that the rest of the animals in the troop may have the virus without showing any symptoms.

“Aside from some congestion and coughing, the gorillas are doing well,”

said Lisa Peterson, executive director of the park. “The troop remains quarantined together and are eating and drinking. We are hopeful for a full recovery.”

This is the first confirmed case of a primate catching the virus naturally. It’s believed that the virus was passed to the gorillas by a member of staff who was not showing any signs of illness (asymptomatic) themselves.



# CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS

**CLOWNFISH** living in sea anemones are growing more slowly due to warming sea temperatures caused by global warming.

A team from the University of Glasgow and French lab CRIOBE found that clownfish living in sea anemones that were affected by bleaching were less active and were slower to grow if they lived there for longer than a month. They studied clownfish in French Polynesia over a nine-month period.

Coral and sea anemone bleaching happens when the sea temperature increases due to climate change, which causes coral and anemones to lose their colour and the algae living in them. The algae provide energy for the anemones as well as the clownfish that use anemones as homes.

The full study is published in the scientific journal *Functional Ecology*.



iStock

# ARMADILLO ARRIVAL



Chessington World of Adventures

**CHESSINGTON** World of Adventures in Surrey has welcomed two six-banded armadillos to its zoo.

Ten-year-old female Digger and two-year-old male Amos have moved into the AMAZU area of the zoo alongside some three-banded armadillos and the squirrel monkeys.

Both types of armadillo originate from South America and are found in a variety of habitats. Staff at Chessington hope that once they have settled in, Amos and Digger may produce some baby armadillos.

# BITESIZE NEWS

**THE** British Veterinary Association (BVA) is urging all pet owners to respect their vets during the current lockdown.



Getty

New rules and guidelines brought in to help stop the spread of COVID-19 mean that some routine vet appointments may be cancelled, postponed or changed to virtual appointments. During the first national lockdown, the BVA reported a number of vets being threatened or shouted at because of the new guidelines.



**CORONAVIRUS**

# DON'T HELP THE VIRUS SPREAD

If you have to leave home then you must stay two metres apart from people you do not live with.

Remember to keep washing your hands regularly.

If you're aged 11 and above then you must wear a face mask in public indoor settings such as shops.

Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**



# JAMMING WITH YOLANDA

YOLANDA Brown is the MOBO Award-winning musician you may recognise from CBBC's *YolanDa's Band Jam*. She's put together some virtual music lessons to help kids during lockdown, and she's also releasing a brand-new album!

● **We love you in *YolanDa's Band Jam*! What is it about the show that you like so much?**

It is such an honour to present such a dynamic, fun, yet educational show for children. There are 90 children in the studio for each episode and we just have the biggest party ever!

● **How important is it for kids to experience live music and performance?**

It is so important for children, nothing beats the feeling. The excitement of getting ready for the gig, arriving at the venue, the artist coming on stage, then the music, lights and more. Hearing the range of instruments, feeling the bass, the vibrations. The emotions you feel are all just so amazing. I have particularly missed both playing and going to gigs during lockdown.

● **Do you have a favourite *YolanDa* and the *Band Jam*inals song to perform?**

It has to be *Bass Face*! There's a bit in

the chorus when the children have to shout "bass face" while making a funny face and it's just the cutest thing. The music also has a nice groove that just makes you want to dance along. Children love it!

● **You've collaborated with other artists on the show. Who would you like to jam with next?**

I have a long list! From the queen – Beyoncé – to Adele, Ed Sheeran, Alicia Keys, Little Mix... I could keep going! Ha ha! I think they would all be amazing and inspire our little *Band Jammers*. My biggest collaboration dream is having a full orchestra on the show. It would be amazing to hear all those instruments play the songs from the show at the same time.

● **What advice do you have for budding musicians who are trying to continue their learning from home?**

Take each day at a time. Take advantage of the unique window we have at home isolating. Enjoy practising.

Listen to loads of other music. Watch live sessions by artists around the world. Most importantly, enjoy it!

● **Did you learn any instruments at school? Did you find it hard?**

I learnt the piano at six and moved onto the violin and drums at school. Then I found the saxophone at 13 and



I couldn't put it down. I was one of the fortunate children who had a school that believed music was important to the growth and development of children. There's always difficulty with playing any instrument, but you have to push through – that's when the true enjoyment really starts to happen.

● **Now we are all in lockdown, you've launched some online learning resources for children. What kind of things can they expect?**

The main aim of the resources is to help you learn while having fun. We teach you music terms such as dynamics and tempo. You can design a concert flyer and so much more. They have been designed to be engaging, and most importantly fun, for children. It is a lifetime dream to have done this.

● **You're also releasing an album...**

Yes. The *YolanDa's Band Jam* album is a combination of songs from series one and two of *YolanDa's Band Jam*. The songs are very unique, cover a variety of genres and just have an all-round good vibe. I am very proud of what we achieved and I cannot wait to have thousands of children feel good vibes as a result of the music.



The *YolanDa's Band Jam* album is out now on all digital platforms. You can download Yolanda's music lessons for free at [www.yolandabrown.co.uk](http://www.yolandabrown.co.uk) and watch episodes of the show on BBC iPlayer

# 15. ENTERTAINMENT



**LOGAN MATTHEWS**

THE young actor told us what it was like playing the famous character Tom Gates!

● **How did you find out you had got the part of Tom Gates, and how did you celebrate?**

My mum picked me up from school in the car and looked excited. I asked her if I had got it (we both knew we were talking about Tom Gates) and she said “yes” and we both screamed! We went out for some dinner with my dad and baby sister, Everly, and I had some steak and fizzy pop in a champagne glass to celebrate!

● **Were you a fan of Tom Gates and the books?**

I love Tom, he’s sooooo funny. I’ve read *The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* and there are loads more of the books in my school library.

● **What is Tom like?**

Tom is so funny and a little bit cheeky like me! He’s a nice lad and is kind too, and I like to think I’m the same.



● **Is he anything like you and your friends? And can you relate to anything that Tom experiences?**

He plays the guitar and I play a little bit of bass guitar too. I’ve got friends who play in a band as well. And there’s definitely someone I know who is a lot like Marcus! My little sister can be annoying sometimes, but she’s more noisy as she’s only one. Luckily I have mostly great teachers... mostly!

● **What was your favourite bit about the voice recording?**

My favourite bit was singing the theme song and doing the wallas [background noises]. I got to make burp sounds, snoring and cool noises like that!

● **Are you any good at doodling like Tom?**

I’m not as good as Tom, but I followed one of the “draw it” segments in the show and I can now draw my own dog zombie and Rooster!

● **Are you going to get all your friends to watch the show when it starts?**

Yes, definitely; I can’t wait to tell them. My head teacher knows about it and has said they’ll arrange for some of it to be shown in a school assembly hopefully, which makes me so proud and excited. I can’t wait for people to see it!

*The Brilliant World of Tom Gates* premieres on 25 January on Sky Kids

# PICS OF THE WEEK

IF you feel like escaping from lockdown, then join Firedrake the dragon on a magical new adventure this February.

When Firedrake finds out that humans are planning on destroying the forest where the dragons live, he sets out to prove that he is a brave young dragon who can save his family.

Based on the hit book by Cornelia Funke, this animated film will take you on an epic quest to the Himalayas, where Firedrake learns how important good friends are.

*Dragon Rider* flies onto Sky Cinema on 12 February!



## THIS WEEK



1 Netflix has announced a musical film version of Roald Dahl’s *Matilda*. British actor Dame Emma Thompson will play the terrifying Miss Trunchbull and James Bond actor Lashana Lynch will play the kind Miss Honey. The new film will be adapted from the hit stage show of *Matilda*.

2 A sequel to the hit animated musical *Sing* has been announced. *Sing 2* will follow Buster Moon (Matthew McConaughey) and his talent show pals on a brand-new adventure. The original cast are all back, along with some new stars, including Pharrell Williams! Sadly, we’ll have to wait until January 2022 for it to hit cinemas!

3 Olivia Rodrigo, the star of Disney’s *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* has released a surprise single that has shot straight to number one. The song, *Drivers License*, is her first official single and was streamed more than 100 million times in its first week!





# INSECT

# ICE CREAM?



## FirstViews

Nearly **600** of you took part in our poll asking: Would you eat insects if it helped to save the planet? More than half of you said you would...

**mr.shark08** • I would only do this on two occasions: to save the planet and if it was a non-venomous, non-bitey insect.

**heh** • I partly agree. I personally wouldn't mind eating insects, after all, how else would we have discovered all the other foods like potatoes if we hadn't tried eating them? I also disagree. Just because they're little doesn't mean their lives aren't worth anything. They still have lives, and don't deserve to be eaten just because us humans want to. You have to imagine you are them, about to be eaten by menacing beasts that don't care for you just because you are little compared to them. You cannot just do things because you want to.

**vvvv** • Why can't everyone just become vegetarians? Insects are living things with feelings too. It's not JUST the yuck factor. They deserve to live, and so do other animals. If you stop eating meat, it doesn't mean you eat insects. My favourite quote is: *"Everything alive deserves a chance to grow."*

OUR front page this week is about insects becoming part of the British and European diet. Long before the thumbs-up was given last week, we spoke to Dr Tilly Collins, an expert at Imperial College London who studies creepy-crawly cuisine. This is what she said:

**First News:** Are some insects better for us than others?

**Tilly:** We're still learning about that. Crickets are looking really excellent on all fronts. They're low in saturated fats, rich in protein, low in carbohydrates, low in sugar, so insects are excellent all-round. And they're not only excellent for us, but as dog, cat and fish food, and even for chicken food. They're really excellent and much closer to their natural diet.

**First News:** Are there any negatives to eating insects?

**Tilly:** The only negatives are that we haven't got enough information about some of them, and also overcoming the yuck factor.

**First News:** Have you tried many yourself?

**Tilly:** Oh yes, I've eaten quite a lot. I'm quite happy to eat insects! I object when bits get stuck between my teeth, so I'm all for grinding them up.

**First News:** Do you have a favourite that you've munched on?

**Tilly:** Mealworms are my favourite. Especially fried up with garlic and a bit of soy sauce!

**safaripig** • IF our planet was about to break due to climate change, then I would. Any other things, NO!

**katkid10** • I have eaten grasshoppers before, covered in BBQ sauce. It was nice... but my mum hated it!

**crystalx27** • Insects contain proteins and energy, which are good for us. I think I would be willing to try them, especially if it will help save the planet.

**ameliau** • I would eat them if it helped to save the planet because they contain protein and energy, which is very healthy for our body. It is not like I have meat in most of my meals anyway. So I guess eating bugs won't be that bad if it is just dead animals, which I guess can't be that disgusting. If they helped save the planet I would at least consider trying them because they might be nice.

**news54321** • If it helps to save the planet, I'd eat insects. But at the moment I'm a vegetarian so I don't think I'm going to eat them just yet.

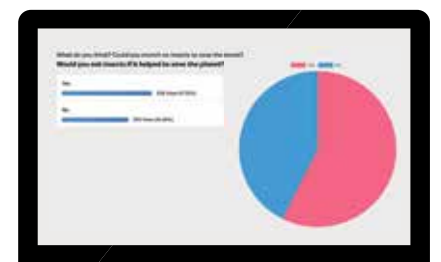
**fishgirl2** • Maybe. ONLY to save the planet Earth Y.U.C.K.

**mcgeorge1** • I would not eat an insect even if I had been told that it would be saving the planet. I mean, they are insects.

**aqua28** • I wouldn't eat insects because I believe it is wrong to kill an animal that doesn't want to be killed, even if it can't feel pain.

**otisbing** • I am half-vegetarian and I think instead of bugs... (drum roll)... VEGETABLES! + FRUIT!

**bamboomilk** • Erm, the insect would die if you ate them. That would not help our planet. Plus it's like being on *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* Eww! Those poor insects and animals!





# 17. BIG INTERVIEW

# “ I FIND SKATING SO HARD ”



THE greatest show on ice is back to brighten up our Sundays! Judge Ashley Banjo talked to us about the new series of *Dancing On Ice* and why the show may not have happened this year.

● **How does it feel to be returning to the judging panel?**

It feels good. It feels like the kind of thing you no longer take for granted any more. I think it feels nice because at one point I didn't know if we'd be able to do it or not. So it just feels nice to be able to be back and I'm looking forward to getting going.

● **It's been a challenging year for performers and audiences of live theatre, so what do you think it means to viewers and everyone taking part to be able to have such a theatrical, sparkly show to start the new year?**

It's what *Dancing On Ice* is all about – the sparkle, the glamour and the achievement of it. I still look at how Joe Swash started off last year as not a great skater and he went all the way to the win. That's personally what I look forward to – seeing someone who at week one is just okay, to growing to be a winner.

● **What have the celebrities got to do to impress you this year?**

I would say keep improving week on week.

● **What do you make of this year's line-up?**

It's good! I haven't seen them skate yet, but usually at this stage, as I'm seeing names on paper, I'm already starting to think: "Ooh, they may be my favourite." This time I just don't know and can't begin to call it. I'm really looking forward to seeing them all.

● **Are there celebs you can see potential in because they have dance experience already?**

Well, it doesn't always translate. Take Perri for example, he could transfer his talent to the ice last year. I have the same training and I find it much, much harder. I've been skating more since last series and I find it so hard. I don't think dancing skills can always translate.

● **What are you looking for in performances? Is there anything that really gives you goosebumps?**

I think it's the week when we see them skate to their personal song choices. I really like telling stories and I do that in what I do, so when people take their new skill and then they bring a real personal story to it, I always love those moments.

● **What can viewers expect to see in the new series?**

I think they can expect a lot of energy this year. Because of the pandemic, it's the kind of thing none of us take for granted any more. We're so happy to be here and to be able to go ahead, so I think people will really commit to it and there'll be such good energy. Everyone is happy to be back.

● **Was it strange not performing with Diversity during the pandemic?**

It was a really weird time for me because we stopped and then, in the first week of lockdown, my wife

and I had a baby. The world felt upside down for sure for the first six weeks, and I think we all felt like: "What on earth is going on?" It was a weird time, but this side of it now I'm sort of grateful for it. What was interesting is that I never felt like it was paused. I think having the baby really made us go: "Life continues; it slows down and it's different, but it continues."

● **Why do you think *Dancing On Ice* viewers love it so much?**

I think it's for a few reasons. It gives you positivity and sparkle and all that good stuff but, also, it's the risk, it's the achievement. People could go out there and fall flat on their faces right in front of the nation, but I think it's all of it combined – the risk, the drama, the entertainment. It all comes together in a nice package that entertains us all.

● **There are lots of themes throughout the competition, but do you have a favourite?**

Movie, I think. I always like movie week because I'm a film nerd, so when you get a chance to bring films to life, I love that. Last series Radzi did *Shrek*. Iconic!

● **If you were going to perform in movie week, what film would you pick?**

Oh, I'm inspired by Radzi. I want to become the world's biggest *Shrek*. Anything with a fat suit! I want to skate in a fat suit.

Don't miss *Dancing On Ice* Sundays at 7pm on ITV



## CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS





# EATING DISORDERS ON THE RISE

EATING disorders are, in part, caused by stress. In the middle of a worldwide pandemic, doctors are reporting a rise in the number of eating disorders among children. But what are eating disorders and what can we do about them?

Last month, the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) said that paediatricians (doctors who treat children) around the UK have seen a huge rise in eating disorders in children and young people. Some have reported double, triple or even four times as many cases compared with similar periods the year before.

Although eating disorders affect a very small number of children, the RCPCH says the paediatricians they spoke to all put the increasing numbers down to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Not everyone has been affected negatively, but some of the things doctors say have added to some young people's stress and poor mental health include:

- not seeing friends during school closures
- exam cancellations, loss of motivating activities such as sports, dance, drama and youth clubs
- increased use of social media, with young people focusing too much on unrealistic ideas of body image
- being forced to quarantine
- worries about family money problems
- illness or death of loved ones
- fears about getting the virus themselves



It's not just girls and women who can have issues with body image

Dr Karen Street, officer for child mental health at the RCPCH, says: "We are extremely concerned about many children and teenagers' wellbeing because of the pandemic. Many of them are just not coping. Eating disorders are often related to a need for control – something many young people feel they have lost during the pandemic."

Other consequences of the pandemic are that the signs of someone having an eating disorder are not

**“ Eating disorders do not discriminate – they affect people of all genders, ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations and weights ”**  
 Beat, the eating disorder charity

spotted quickly enough. Doctors don't see patients as much due to reduced services and fewer face-to-face appointments. Teachers don't see students as much due to closed schools and online learning.

Dr Street says this means it is taking longer for people with problems to get help: "Young people are reaching us much sicker than they were before and this is almost certainly because they are having less face-to-face interaction with GPs."

That's why it's more important than ever for family and friends to look out for each other. The sooner you can spot the signs, the sooner someone with an eating disorder can get the help they need.

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) describes some of the warning signs to look out for:

- cutting food into small pieces or eating slowly
- lying about how much or when they've eaten, or their weight
- eating lots of food very fast
- going to the bathroom after eating and looking flushed (red in the face) afterwards
- over-exercising
- avoiding eating with others
- sudden weight loss
- wearing baggy clothes to hide weight loss



## WHAT IS AN EATING DISORDER?

An eating disorder is a mental illness that means you have an unhealthy relationship with food. Someone might eat too much (binge eating) or not enough (anorexia). They might binge then get rid of the food by over-exercising or making themselves sick (bulimia).

There are other types of eating disorders too. All are very serious and cause huge emotional and physical harm, and can even lead to death.

## WHY DO PEOPLE GET THEM?

Eating disorder charity Beat says: "Eating disorders are not all about food itself, but about feelings." There is no one reason why someone might develop an eating disorder, but they might include a family history of eating disorders, being teased for their weight, pressure from society or having anxiety and low self-esteem.

## WHO CAN GET THEM?

Anyone can develop an eating disorder. They are often associated with women and girls, but up to 25% of people with eating disorders are male.

It's believed that between 1.25 and 3.4 million people in the UK are affected by an eating disorder.

They are most common between the ages of 16 and 40, but have been seen in children as young as six and people in their 70s.

**“ An eating disorder is never the fault of the person experiencing it. They deserve fast, compassionate support to help them get better ”**  
 Beat, the eating disorder charity

Visit [beateatingdisorders.org.uk](http://beateatingdisorders.org.uk) for more information on eating disorders. You can call Beat on 0808 801 0711 or email [fyp@beateatingdisorders.org.uk](mailto:fyp@beateatingdisorders.org.uk) for help.

# THE **BIG** WORDSEARCH

CAN you find these historical figures in our **BIG** history-themed wordsearch? Do you know how they earned their place in history? Who was a famous explorer, who started the Montgomery bus boycott and whose diary tells the story of her life under Nazi occupation in Amsterdam? Remember, the words can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal.

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

- |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> William Shakespeare | <input type="checkbox"/> Julius Caesar        | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Edison        | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert the Bruce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Neil Armstrong   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Lincoln     | <input type="checkbox"/> Albert Einstein      | <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Frank           | <input type="checkbox"/> Winston Churchill    | <input type="checkbox"/> Genghis Khan     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Boleyn         | <input type="checkbox"/> Martin Luther King   | <input type="checkbox"/> Florence Nightingale | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Winston Jackson | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosa Parks       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charles Darwin      | <input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Columbus | <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Austen          | <input type="checkbox"/> Queen Victoria       | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Jefferson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alexander the Great | <input type="checkbox"/> Leonardo da Vinci    | <input type="checkbox"/> Napoleon             | <input type="checkbox"/> Aristotle            | <input type="checkbox"/> Barack Obama     |

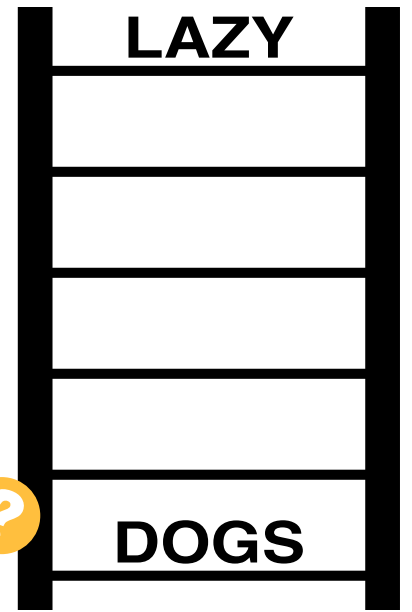
# SUDOKU!

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

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

# WORD LADDER

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



# CROSSWORD

CAN you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

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

### ACROSS

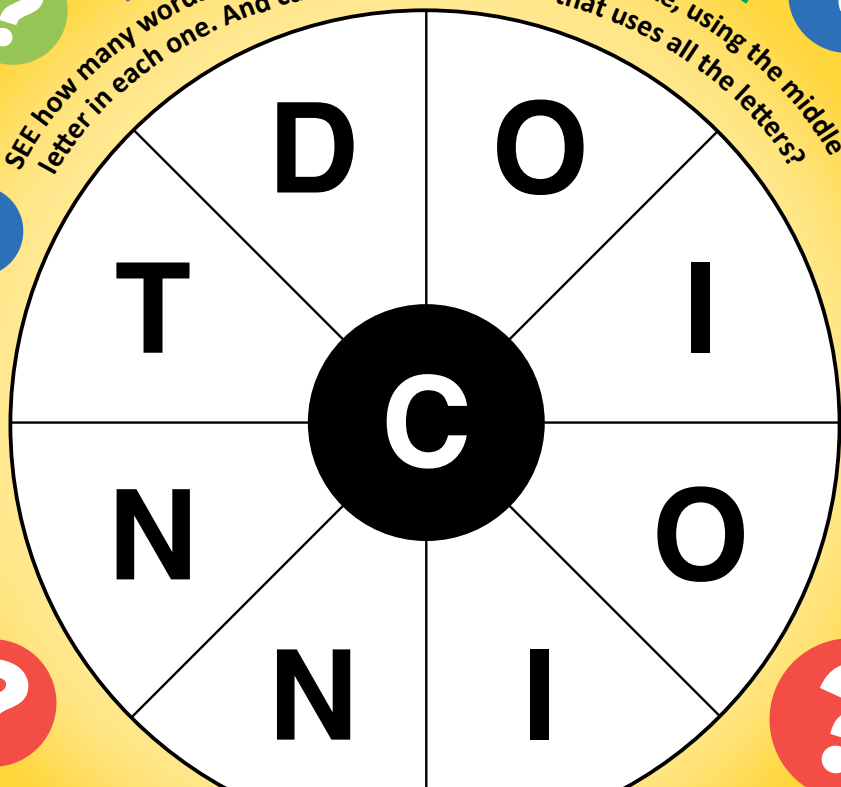
- 1 The natural world or ecosystem (11)
- 6 Completely fill (4)
- 8 Inactive or doing nothing (4)
- 9 Snakes and \_\_\_ : board game (7)
- 10 Perhaps (5)
- 11 Become red in the face (5)
- 13 Emotion (7)
- 15 Popular flower; part of the eye (4)
- 16 Famous extinct bird (4)
- 17 Holland (11)

### DOWN

- 1 Sudden cry or remark (11)
- 2 Vale (anagram) (4)
- 3 Perform better than (5)
- 4 Finishes (4)
- 5 Very dangerous (11)
- 7 Children's game with small coloured balls (7)
- 8 Dublin's country (7)
- 12 You walk on this (5)
- 13 A tightly-closed hand (4)
- 14 Long dress (4)

# WORD WHEEL

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





## 22. GAME ZONE

# POKÉ-PLANS



**THIS year is Pokémon's 25th anniversary, so there's a lot going on to celebrate!**

This week, The Pokémon Company – the business that promotes all things Pokémon, and is part-owned by Nintendo – gave us a taster of some of the Poké-fun that's on its way this year. It launched a few videos showing off some of the Pokémon projects that are planned for release.

The first, *25 Years of Memories*, followed a rolling Poké Ball as it travelled through the various Pokémon games, cards and toys that have been released over the years.

The video ended with none other than Katy Perry (above) singing the word 'electric' – and the reveal that the pop star will be releasing music, along with a number of other musicians, to celebrate Pokémon's 25th anniversary.

Also released this week was a second trailer for the upcoming Pokémon photography game, *New Pokémon Snap*. This introduced us to the Lental islands and showed off some of the 200 Pokémon that call the islands home, and revealed that the game will be released in the UK on 30 April, which we're very excited about.

Along with all that, The Pokémon Company has teased special merchandise, plus celebrations within *Pokémon GO*, the *Pokémon* animated series and, of course, the *Pokémon* videogames! What are you most excited for?

# NOT SO READY FOR THE PS5



**SOME of Sony's TVs are not compatible with the Sony PS5, despite claiming to be "ready" for the next-gen console.**

Ahead of the PlayStation 5's release, Sony launched a campaign for its fancy 2020 Sony Bravia TVs, stating that they were "Ready for PlayStation 5".

Unfortunately, they weren't quite ready, since they don't support some refresh rates and low latency (response time) features of the PS5. Apparently firmware updates for the affected TVs are on the way though. Oops!

# FIVE-YEAR SHORTCUT!

**AFTER five years, and tens of thousands of attempts, a French Mario Kart Wii fan has finally completed an "ultra-shortcut" on the Rainbow Road track.**

An "ultra-shortcut" is basically a glitch that skips most of a track in *Mario Kart*. The glitch isn't an intentional 'Easter egg', as the shortcut requires incredibly precise movements and a serious amount of luck.

The Rainbow Road ultra-shortcut was discovered back in 2016, and until now, had only been completed successfully by a computer programme!



# RESET THE EARTH

**RESET Earth is a game that has been released with the support of the United Nations. It's set in a world where the ozone layer was never saved, and it's up to you to work to save the day.**

The game is being released alongside an animated web series by the United Nations Ozone Secretariat. It's set in an alternate future where the world didn't save the ozone layer.

The year is 2084, and with the ozone gone, the planet hasn't coped well. A disease called GROW has spread across the world, cutting life expectancy to less than 30 years.

You'll play as one of three teenagers – Knox, Sagan and Terran – who set out to stop the spread of the disease, on a journey through time and space.

To learn more about the game, head to [ozone.unep.org/reset-earth](https://ozone.unep.org/reset-earth).



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# CALLING ALL YOUNG INVENTORS

## CAN YOUR IDEA CHANGE THE WORLD AND WIN £20,000?

SAVING the planet, healthy choices, an ageing population, clean transport and staying connected safely – there are many challenges that we face. They will need many different solutions.

Young people care deeply about making a difference. Using science and technology, they can solve the big problems of our time. The Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize is a competition for young people aged 11-16 that will award £40,000 to teams from schools and youth groups who invent new technologies to solve these challenges.

In 2020 a team from London won. They researched, designed and coded a smartwatch

app that helps people with memory loss live more independently. The impressive winners did all of this during lockdown.

The Amazon Longitude Explorer Prize is looking for its next big winners. It is calling on teams of young people to invent a new technology that makes the world a better place. The top 40 teams will work with experts from Amazon next term to bring their ideas to life!



Team Iscort from Greenford High School won last year with their Tomodachi smartwatch app (left)

Here are some of last year's top entries to inspire you with ideas...

First prize is £20,000 for your school or youth group!



The deadline to enter is **12 February 2021**. To find out more and to enter, visit [longitudeexplorer.challenges.org](https://longitudeexplorer.challenges.org).

## BOOKS

# YOUR READS!



reviewed by **Toby Wicks, aged eight**

## THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE CS LEWIS

There were two girls and two boys who were evacuated because their parents fought in the war, and they went to the countryside.

One day they were playing hide and seek, when one of the girls, called Lucy, found a door to a different world. "She felt something soft and powdery and cold". They had a battle and the teams were the witch's team and Aslan's team.

My favourite part is when Aslan makes Edmund a knight on the battlefield. My favourite character is a lion, perhaps Aslan's brother, because he is boisterous!

I would recommend this book because I really enjoyed it and I have got lots of favourite parts. I think it is suitable for those aged six and over.

## WE WANT YOUR BOOK REVIEWS!

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

## National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



**STEAL** an elephant with Nizrana Farook, our author of the week in the Virtual School Library!

Enter the Virtual School Library from the National Literacy Trust and the Oak National Academy to read or listen to *The Girl Who Stole an Elephant* for free and watch an exclusive video about Nizrana's latest book, *The Boy Who Met A Whale*. Nizrana recommends these books:

- *The Wild Way Home* by Sophie Kirtley
- *The Unadoptables* by Hana Tooke
- *Boy, Everywhere* by AM Dassu

“Words for Life”

Virtual School Library

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

# 24. CRAZY BUT TRUE

## SPOT THE DOG!

**CAN you spot the horse, the pony and the dog in this picture?**

These black and white spotted animals belong to Greetje Arends-Hakvoort in the Netherlands, and have been causing a big stir online.

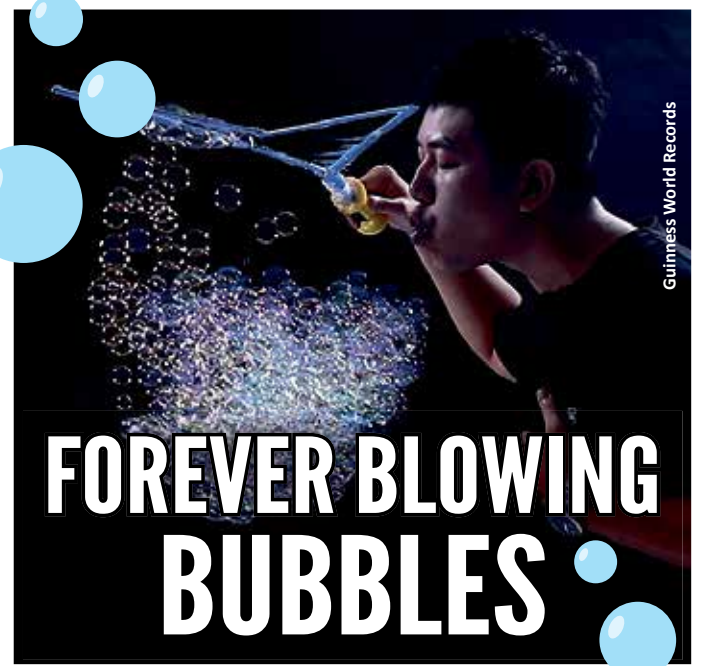
Greetje, the founder of the Human & Horse Academy, said her trio of unique pets don't just share similar skin – they are best friends too. She's even added a few more spotty horses to the gang!

Greetje told *First News*: "I had always wanted a Dalmatian dog and I love spotted horses, so two of my wishes came together in a special way. I never dreamed that Nevada the horse, Napoleon the pony and Jack the Dalmatian would like each other that much. People always smile when they see them together!"



Meet Nevada the Appaloosa stallion, Napoleon the Shetland pony and Jack the Dalmatian dog

Facebook/Human & Horse Academy



Guinness World Records

## FOREVER BLOWING BUBBLES

**A MAN in Taiwan has set a bubbling new Guinness World Record.**

Chang Yu-Te managed to blow an impressive 783 soap bubbles inside one giant bubble to set the new record.

The attempt took place in Taoyuan, with Chang using a bubble wand to keep the large bubble afloat. He then blew the smaller bubbles inside it with his mouth. What an unusual skill!

## TOOTH TRICKERY



**A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl tried to trick the tooth fairy, but she was busted by her mum.**

Iris from Devon surprised her parents when she popped a 'tooth' under her pillow one night. But her mum Rachel knew her daughter hadn't lost any teeth recently.

When Rachel had a closer look though, she discovered what was amiss – the tooth had a minty smell!

It later turned out Iris had been a little sly and cut up a Tic Tac mint, before colouring one end red to look like it still had a little bit of blood on it.

In the morning, Iris was slightly disappointed when she discovered she hadn't been given money from the tooth fairy. She wasn't left empty-handed though, and was gifted a chocolate coin for her cheeky effort instead!



Facebook/Summerland Pumpkin Competition

## PUMPKIN POWER

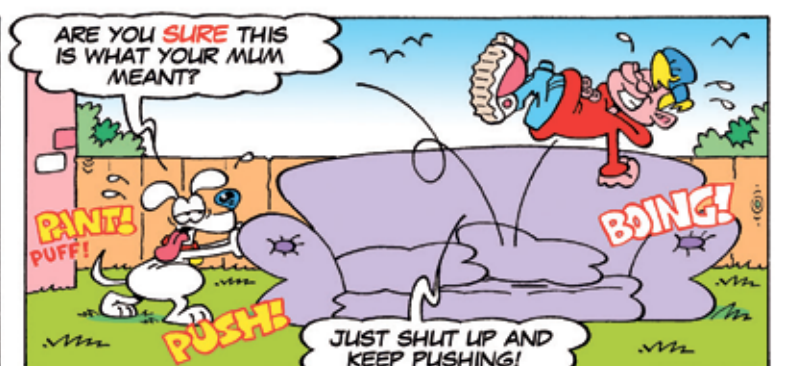
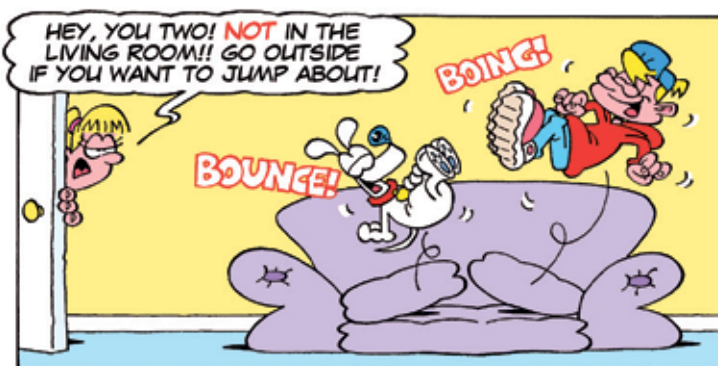
**THIS giant pumpkin could certainly take Cinderella to the ball, don't you think?**

The whopping vegetable weighs 867kg (1,911 pounds) and has just set a new record for the biggest pumpkin in the southern hemisphere.

Dale Oliver entered his impressive veg into the Summerland Pumpkin Competition in New South Wales, Australia. He said he thought it could have been even bigger if there hadn't been heatwaves in the area.



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer





## FOOTBALL FUN



by Samih Khan and Mark Khlebnikov, Harwell and Hendred Blacks

**OUR football team means the world to us. We are a youth team for Harwell and Hendred Blacks and we play in a South Oxfordshire league.**

Much as we love winning games (and were extremely proud to be second in our league last year!), we love football even when we don't win.

Here are our top three reasons why being part of this team means so much to us:

- We have made so many amazing friends since we joined the team. As many of us are in different schools, it's strange to think we may never have met if it wasn't for football!
- Our team spirit is so powerful. We look out for each other no matter what. Our celebrations are great fun when we win, but when we don't, we still know how to make each other smile.
- Our coaches Darren and Dave always motivate us and encourage us to play in positions we are not always comfortable in. They make sure we are always warm and polite to our opponents, but the best part is we have treats after all our weekend games, whatever the result!



Mark and Samih

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

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

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

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

## VEGGIE COOKING

by Iraj Sharma

**DURING the pandemic, my sister and I developed an interest in cooking and baking.**

Together we made a variety of main meals, healthy snacks, cakes and cookies.

We are vegetarians, so we also took the opportunity to learn more about how this is a positive life choice. Only around 6% of the UK population are vegetarian, according to one survey.

The Vegan Society say if the UK population was killed at the same rate farm animals around the world are, there would be no-one left in the country in just 11 hours!

We are very passionate about the environment and want to preserve it, not only for ourselves but for future generations. Remember that the environment belongs to all its inhabitants, not just humans. Investigating, creating and making delightful meat-free treats has been very interesting.

In my opinion being vegetarian is one of the best ways to save the environment and be healthy. Not only that, it's great to discover unique ways to create a scrumptious meal. Yum!



Iraj's meat-free burgers

## ZOOM LEARNING

by Aurelia Raynor, St Cedd's School, Essex

**ON Erasmus Day 2020 my school set up a wonderful Zoom call with many different schools in other countries.**

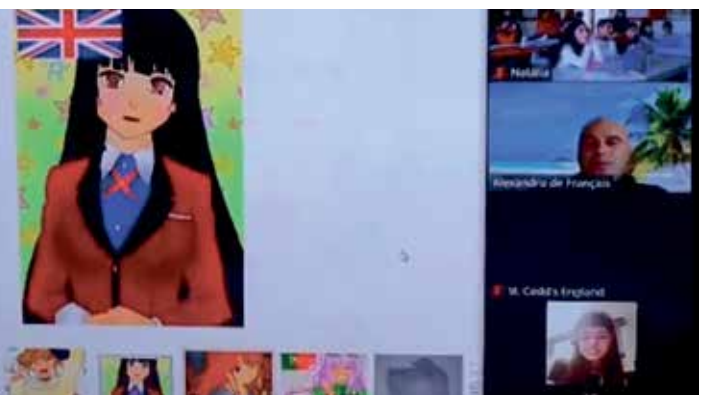
Erasmus stands for European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students. It allows students from lots of countries to share experiences of their school days and education.

We talked to schools in Romania, Guadeloupe, Portugal, Germany and Italy. It was wonderful being able to talk to all these schools and individuals in other countries.

After a wonderful session of chatting and questions, we showed our summer and winter uniform, and in return they showed us their dances and drawings.

When we did the Zoom call at 2pm our time, the Guadeloupe school day had only just begun. However, for every other country we talked to, their school day was just ending. The school in Guadeloupe even showed off their fantastic dance moves and we all had a great time.

A drawing sent over for the Zoom lesson from a student in Romania



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# 26. SHOPS

## WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?

### MARVIN'S iMAGIC BOX OF TRICKS

JOHNLEWIS.COM £17.99

Become a modern-day magician with this iMagic set of 50 easy-to-learn, mind-blowing tricks! Stun your audience with augmented reality and incredible mind-reading skills, magic stunts, interactive tricks and much, much more!



### LIGHTS FROM ANYWHERE

MENKIND.CO.UK £7.00

Amaze your friends and family with Lights From Anywhere. Officially recommended by The Magic Circle, this trick can be learnt quickly and leave your family asking: "How did they do that?" This kit includes everything you need to get started with the trick: a set of instructions and the props required to pull lights from thin air!



\*All prices correct at time of printing

## MAGIC



### THE DYNAMIC COINS AMAZING TRICK SET

AMAZON.CO.UK £14.68

This trick enables you to perform an intriguing and unbelievable sequence of effects with coins. Learn to make them appear, disappear and even transform. Simple but powerful magic for young magicians to impress with. The box contains all the props you need to create clever magic, but you'll need lots of practice to get it right.

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– A Crawford, parent, May 2020

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# SPORT IN PICTURES

Boca Juniors players celebrate winning the Copa Diego Armando Maradona in Argentina, after they beat Banfield 5-3 on penalties. Maradona died in November, and the League Cup was renamed in his honour



Marta Bassino of Italy poses with the Golden Fox trophy (the fox is inside it!) after winning both World Cup giant slalom races at Kranjska Gora, Slovenia



The American Magic yacht capsizes during the PRADA Cup at Auckland Harbour in New Zealand. Thankfully nobody was hurt



Gold medallists Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier compete in the pairs free skate during the US Figure Skating Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada



Manchester City's Rúben Dias celebrates with John Stones, who scored twice as City beat Crystal Palace 4-0 in the Premier League

# SPORT IN NUMBERS

**27** is the age of Hugues Fabrice Zango, the only athlete from Burkina Faso to ever set a world record in athletics. Hugues leapt 18.07 metres to add 15 centimetres to the previous record for the longest indoor triple jump, set by his own coach in 2011. He achieved the feat at a meet in Aubière, France.



**7** goals were scored by Manchester City as they thrashed Aston Villa in the Women's Super League (WSL).

Lauren Hemp (below) scored twice and set up another goal in the 7-0 victory. It was City's third WSL win in a row, but they are still five points behind league leaders Chelsea.



**36** balls is all New Zealand's Sophie Devine needed to score the fastest century in women's Twenty20 history. Sophie broke the 11-year-old record in a match for Wellington Blaze, eventually hitting a total of 108 from 38 balls.



World No1 Novak Djokovic relaxes on his hotel balcony during quarantine

# AUSSIE OPEN'S "INSANE" LOCKDOWN

**SOME** of the world's top tennis players have been complaining about being kept under a strict quarantine before the start of the Australian Open.

The first tennis Grand Slam of the year is due to begin on 8 February. Most players have been placed in five-star quarantine hotels in Melbourne and Adelaide. They are only allowed out of their rooms for up to five hours a day to practise on court.

However, 72 tennis stars have been ordered to stay in their rooms in Melbourne for 14 days because they travelled on planes alongside people who tested positive for COVID-19.

Among the 72 is Novak Djokovic, the reigning men's champion. He asked for better food and permission to visit coaches and gyms, but his demands were rejected by the Victoria state authorities.

Many players are hitting tennis balls against their room walls to try and keep fit. Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva said the players had not been told they would have to stay in



Naomi Osaka, on her way back to the hotel

their rooms if one person on their flight tested positive. Tournament organisers say that players knew the rules beforehand.

French player Alizé Cornet, who is not among the 72 quarantining, described the quarantine arrangement as "insane", though she later apologised for her remark.

British wheelchair tennis star Gordon Reid said it was a "minority that are kicking up a fuss".

Australia has strict COVID-19 rules, including a weekly limit on the number of international arrivals. Some people were angry that players were allowed to enter the country while 37,000 Australians are still waiting to return home.

Britain's Andy Murray tested positive for the coronavirus in mid-January and, as First News went to press, was still isolating and unable to travel to Australia.

# YAN THE MASTER

**CHINA'S Yan Bingtao has won snooker's Masters tournament, becoming its youngest champion in 26 years.**

Bingtao, aged 20, was trailing 5-3 after the first session against John Higgins in the final, but staged a great comeback to beat the Scotland legend 10-8. It was Bingtao's first appearance at the Masters and his first major title.

John, who at 45 is more than twice Bingtao's age, is a four-time world champion and has twice won the Masters himself, most recently in 2006.

But this was Bingtao's year. The youngster defeated Neil Robertson, Stephen Maguire and Stuart Bingham on his way to the final. After his win, he said: "I am very excited. I have imagined how I would celebrate but I am very calm, even though in the last few frames I was not playing very well. But I did not give up."

John was very graceful in defeat, describing Bingtao as "fantastic" and adding that "China is very lucky to have Yan".



Yan Bingtao, pictured here in 2020, has won his first major title

