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MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

THE WEEK

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THE BEST OF THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Kim's missile test How should Trump react?

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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS

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What happened

Trump's "first scare"

Donald Trump faced his first major foreign policy test on Sunday when North Korea conducted a provocative test launch of a ballistic missile. The firing of the medium-range rocket – which flew about 300 miles towards Japan before falling into the sea – was timed to coincide with a meeting between the US president and the Japanese prime minister, Shinzo Abe, in Florida. Abe called the launch “absolutely intolerable”; Trump said North Korea was a “big, big problem” and promised to deal with it “very strongly”.

Trump also came under mounting pressure at home this week following the resignation of his national security adviser, Michael Flynn. The retired general was forced to quit after it emerged that he had discussed US sanctions with a Russian envoy before Trump took office – a legal violation, made worse by the fact that he then misled the vice-president, Mike Pence, and others by denying having done so. The Justice Department apparently warned the White House last month that Flynn's inaccurate account of his talks with the Russian envoy had left him potentially vulnerable to blackmail.



Kim: no “paradigm shift”

What the editorials said

“President Obama warned Donald Trump that North Korea would provide his first foreign policy emergency, and so it has proved,” said The Times. Kim Jong Un is even more provocative than his father: he has conducted 35 missile tests in four years, whereas Kim Jong Il authorised 18 in 18 years. Sunday's test does not mark a “paradigm shift in Pyongyang's arms programme”, said The Guardian. But it is believed to be the first North Korean missile of this range to be propelled by solid fuel, which marks an advance. The regime is “unquestionably moving towards its goal of a nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental US”.

When Pyongyang boasted last month about how close it was to achieving that aim, said The Washington Post, Trump tweeted: “It won't happen!” Thankfully, the president was less specific this week. There is nothing to be gained right now by “drawing red lines”. It would be disastrous if the US rushed into some sort of unilateral action, agreed The Independent. The best approach to North Korea remains, as always, patient diplomacy, in concert with China, Japan and South Korea. For Trump, the “challenge posed by Pyongyang is not to his authority but to his ability to stay calm”.

What happened

Rejecting child refugees

The Government announced last week that it was abandoning a scheme to offer safe haven to thousands of child refugees, provoking a storm of protest. When introduced last year, the programme was expected to allow up to 3,000 unaccompanied children into the country. But it will now be wound down in the next few weeks after accepting just 350. Defending the decision, Home Secretary Amber Rudd said local authorities had been struggling to cope with the number of children arriving, and the scheme could “incentivise” refugees to head for Britain.

The move was denounced as “shabby” by Lord Dubs, who originally proposed the scheme. The Labour peer, once a child refugee to Britain from the Nazis, said it betrayed Britain's “humanitarian tradition”. Joining other critics, the Archbishop of Canterbury warned that more refugee children might now be trafficked, exploited or even killed.



Protests in Whitehall last week

What the editorials said

This was an act of “cold-blooded cruelty”, said The Guardian. Ministers have been scared into action by the fear of hostile tabloid coverage. They know they are behaving badly. Why else did they try to “bury” the announcement in a written statement just before MPs left for the recess? In fact, the Government's approach has been grudging from the start, said the FT. It only agreed to allow in the extra 3,000 children – a tiny fraction of the estimated 90,000 sleeping rough in Europe – as a “minimal concession” after refusing to join an EU-wide scheme to resettle 160,000 refugees across the bloc. It is guilty of a “moral” failure that will damage our reputation for “tolerance and openness”.

Stop all the pious hand-wringing, said The Sun. This isn't an act of “heartless evil”, whatever left-wingers might like us to believe. The reality is that Britain gives more in aid to Syrian refugees than any other country except the US. The Government's decision may be unwelcome, but what “workable solution” can the critics offer when councils simply can't take in any more children?

It wasn't all bad

Waitrose is to become the first European company to use lorries fuelled by renewable biomethane gas. The supermarket is buying ten of the lorries, which run entirely on the gas – a byproduct of rotting vegetable matter and other food waste. Already in use in the US, they can run for up to 500 miles at a time, and emit 70% less carbon dioxide than diesel lorries. Argos has also placed an order, and two local authorities, including Leeds City Council, have shown interest.

A woman whose 147-year-old wedding dress went missing has been reunited with the family heirloom. When Tess Newall, a 29-year-old set designer, got married in her home town of Morham, East Lothian, last year, she wore a lace dress made by her great-great-grandmother in 1870. She then took it to be dry-cleaned in Edinburgh; but when she went to pick it up, she discovered the firm had gone bankrupt, and the dress was said to have been lost. Newall posted an appeal on Facebook, where it was shared 284,000 times. The dress was eventually found on the shuttered shop's floor, and was returned to her this week.



A hoard of lost Bob Marley recordings have been discovered in the basement of a London hotel. The 13 reel-to-reel tapes were found in a run-down hotel where Marley and his band stayed during their European tours in the 1970s. Featuring live recordings of London and Paris shows from that era, the tapes had suffered so much water damage that they were feared to be ruined beyond repair. But after a year of painstaking work by sound technician Martin Nichols, using the latest techniques, the reels have been restored.

What the commentators said

There was something curiously appropriate about Trump's first "national security scare", said Julian Borger in *The Guardian*. It didn't play out in a tense bunker in Washington DC, but on the dining terrace of Trump's Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, "against a backdrop of hotel muzak" and "high-paying guests". As news of the missile test came in, Trump, Abe and the rest of their party stayed at their candlelit table to hash out the crisis. Aides passed bits of paper, illuminating them with mobile phones; waiters came and went; a club member snapped photos; one guest even took a selfie with the presidential aide who carries the nuclear codes.

It was a bizarre scene, said David A. Fahrenthold in *The Washington Post*. Not long ago, Trump was criticising Hillary Clinton for her lax attitude to confidentiality, yet here he was, treating a club terrace as an "open-air situation room". He has exhibited the same "cavalier" attitude with his appointments, said Frank Bruni in *The New York Times*. Anyone familiar with Michael Flynn's recent record of "rashness" and his conspiratorial beliefs – he once claimed Arabic signs along the Mexican border pointed terrorists towards the US – knew he was an accident waiting to happen. Trump should have directed the "extreme vetting" he favours for immigrants at his own appointees.

Trump may be guilty of more than just carelessness, said Brian Beutler in the *New Republic*. The best-case scenario is that Flynn went "rogue" when he discussed sanctions with a Russian envoy and then lied about it, and that Trump has only just learned of the Justice Department's warning. The "likelier story", however, is "that Flynn was doing what Trump told him to do". If that's the case, then the president also left himself vulnerable to Russian leverage. The scandal could yet "ensnare" Trump. Things could get worse, agreed Fred Kaplan on *Slate*. Trump's supporters are willing to overlook a lot, but clear evidence that the president was "secretly beholden to a foreign power" might prove a "bridge too far".



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What next?

Leading Republicans have joined calls for an independent investigation into Flynn's links with Russia. The Senate and House intelligence committees, and the FBI, are already examining Russian involvement in the election.

The use of solid fuel will make North Korean missiles more transportable and harder to detect, as it reduces the time required to fuel a missile before launch. With liquid fuel propellant, the West was alerted early to imminent tests, thanks to the involvement of fuel trucks and other equipment.

What the commentators said

What kind of government "sneaks out an announcement" that it reneges on a pledge to give shelter to "3,000 of the most desperate people on Earth", asked Jonathan Freedland in *The Guardian*. The answer, alas, is a government that knows it has the support of the press. Not so long ago, newspapers and the British public – moved by the pictures of the lifeless body of a three-year-old boy washed up on a Turkish beach – were ready to show child refugees some sympathy. But the approach has changed utterly since the first children began arriving from Calais. These days, child refugees are more likely to be portrayed as "scam artists" seeking to enter Britain by disguising their true age. The Brexit debate must be partly to blame, said Philip Collins in *The Times*. The referendum and its aftermath are fostering a "crabbed and mean" spirit. The country has not always been so ungenerous. In 1939, the six-year-old Alfred Dubs found refuge in Britain after "fleeing tyranny" in a *Kindertransport* train, organised by the British stockbroker Nicholas Winton, as Nazi troops moved into Prague.

That's a "romanticised" view of our past, said Alastair Sloan on *Aljazeera.com*. What we are seeing is a return to our "historic indifference to refugee suffering". The truth is that just 70,000 Jews had been given asylum in Britain by the outbreak of war in 1939: half a million had been turned away, "many to their deaths". Spare me these "sentimental posturings", too, said Melanie Phillips in *The Times*. I'm "appalled" by the frequent comparisons between our treatment of refugees today and the run-up to the Holocaust, sometimes even by my fellow Jews. The Holocaust was an attempt to wipe out an entire people: "today's migrant crisis is part of a mass movement of people, not all of them refugees, which threatens to engulf western Europe". It is "nauseating" to suggest that supporting restrictions on migrants in 2017 should make someone a "heartless monster", or even a traitor to the memory of the Holocaust.

What next?

The Government is to face a legal challenge over the closure of the Dubs scheme. The charity Help Refugees says the consultation process required by law before capping the numbers at 350 was "fundamentally flawed". The case will be heard in May. Some 80,000 people have already signed a petition urging ministers to reverse the decision.

An official commitment to accept 20,000 refugees by 2020 remains in place, and Britain will continue to take in unaccompanied children who arrive here under EU-wide rules designed to reunite families: some 700 have already been accepted.

THE WEEK

Do novelists tend to be pessimists? Is there something inherently pessimistic, or conservative, about fiction itself? In the FT, Janan Ganesh argues that there is. He quotes Barack Obama, who admits to being haunted by the opening line of V.S. Naipaul's *A Bend in the River*: "The world is what it is." (Obama told *The New York Times* that he fights against the bleakness of this sentiment, but often unsuccessfully.) Ganesh says that if conservatism ever had a motto, Naipaul's six monosyllables might serve, and thinks the kind of bleakness they enshrine is typical of fiction. "A dark view of humans, a certain resignation to the imperfectibility of things, is what marks literature out from the idealistic arts." We expect actors and musicians to be "left-liberal"; visual artists, too, at least in modern times, like to subvert authority. Only literature seems "consistently given to conservatism".

Among Americans, Ganesh cites Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer ("that scourge of feminists") and John Updike; among British novelists, Evelyn Waugh, Kingsley Amis, and, of course, Naipaul. Ganesh says he's not talking about political conservatism, or a taste for free markets, but rather of a "sceptical habit of mind and a preference for dismal truths over well-meaning lies". In this sense, I think he's right: there is a bleak clarity about the work of so many leading novelists. Plenty would balk at being called conservative, but they would probably agree with Graham Greene that there is a "splinter of ice" in the heart of every writer.

Jolyon Connell

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Controversy of the week

The bell tolls for Corbyn

Rumour has it that Jeremy Corbyn is pondering his position. If he isn't – Corbyn said the revelation was “fake news” – then he should be, said *The Times*. A new poll has found that his net approval rating is a dismal -40. Tory or Labour, rich or poor, Remain or Leave, southerner or northerner, “everyone thinks that Mr Corbyn is doing a bad job”. After nearly a century as the party of government or opposition, “Labour is in the throes of an existential crisis. Its MPs are out of step with its members. Its members are out of step with its voters. Worst of all, its voters are out of step with each other.” On Brexit and immigration, the Remainers of the big cities are at odds with the Leavers of the Midlands and the North (as we will see in next week's two by-elections in once-safe Labour seats, Copeland in Cumbria and Stoke-on-Trent Central). But the most important factor in Labour's mess is Corbyn himself.



Corbyn: planning an exit

For many Labour loyalists, Corbyn's tweet last week was the “final provocation”, said Adam Boulton in *The Sunday Times*. After running a dismal campaign to stay in the EU during the referendum, and after ordering his own MPs to ensure that the Brexit Bill passed by a massive 494 to 122 margin, he had the temerity to tweet: “Real fight starts now.” Whipping his party into voting with Theresa May is pretty much the only concerted action he has taken as leader. “Given the number of Labour MPs who rebelled, he didn't even do that effectively.” Eighty MPs have sat in his shadow cabinet since the general election; nowadays, he doesn't even bother sacking the rebels. “The latest batch resigned instead.” In the past few weeks, “something has shifted”, said John Harris in *The Guardian*. “I know once-passionate Corbyn supporters who are now racked with doubt about the man they once believed in, and about his handling of such a watershed political moment.”

“It is no exaggeration to say that the Tories cannot quite believe what is happening to the opposition,” said Matthew d'Ancona in *The Guardian*. One of the PM's closest allies told me: “I sometimes rub my eyes and think I'm dreaming.” But it cannot last forever. It was revealed last week that Labour's pollsters have been running focus groups on two shadow ministers – Rebecca Long-Bailey and Angela Rayner – apparently to identify a new leader from the party's Corbynite wing. By contrast, Labour's moderates seem worryingly unprepared for Corbyn's inevitable exit. The likes of Chuka Umunna, Stella Creasy, Rachel Reeves and Keir Starmer are talented, but “utterly lacking” in planning, focus and the “rage for victory”. The Tories also need to get planning, said Juliet Samuel in *The Daily Telegraph*. At some point, Corbyn will leave the scene. “When he does, many on the Right will be shocked to discover an uncomfortable fact: much of Britain is solidly left-wing.” They should use the Corbyn era as a “window of opportunity” to head off a Labour revival.

IHAT wound up

An inquiry into allegations of abuse by British troops in Iraq is to be shut down. Defence Secretary Michael Fallon announced that the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) will close this summer, with the 20 or so remaining cases handed to the military police. Set up in 2010, IHAT has considered more than 3,000 cases of misconduct; however, a report last week by the Defence Sub-Committee said many lacked credible evidence. Phil Shiner, a lawyer representing many of the alleged victims, was struck off last week.

Espionage clampdown

People who leak state secrets should face harsher penalties, a new report has proposed. Having been asked by ministers to draw up suggestions for updating the Official Secrets Act, the Law Commission, an independent body, proposed increasing the maximum sentence for the disseminating of official material, from two to 14 years. It also suggested broadening the definition of the crime to include those who obtain or gather information, which could include journalists and charity workers. However, No. 10 insisted that it had no plans to restrict press freedom.

Spirit of the age

A new London nursery is to offer Mandarin classes for one-year-olds. Safari Kid, which opens in Islington in June, is an outpost of a chain founded in Silicon Valley for the children of tech magnates. Pupils will be taught about money and given pointers on public speaking; by the time they start school, the nursery says, they will be up to two years ahead of their peers.

Authors who fear causing offence can now call upon “sensitivity readers” to vet their works. A US agency, Writing in the Margins, promises to “identify problematic language and internalised bias on the page”. It has a range of readers, who list their areas of expertise – gay relationships, say, or gender fluidity. The fee for a read-through starts at \$250.

Good week for:

Pensioners, who are now better off than people of working age. After housing costs, the typical pensioner household has £20 more per week than the typical working-age one. This is largely because more pensioners own their own homes, and many are continuing to work even while claiming their pensions.

Twins, which are suddenly big in showbiz. George and Amal Clooney announced last week that they are expecting twins, hot on the heels of Beyoncé and Jay Z.

The world's oldest police constabulary, which has been given back its power of arrest after nearly 80 years. The Cathedral Constables, who patrol the grounds of York Minster, will once again carry truncheons and apprehend criminal suspects.

Gordon Ramsay, who became the first Briton to win two Michelin stars in France. *Le Pressoir d'Argent*, in Bordeaux, opened 17 months ago and serves both French and British food.

Bad week for:

Paul Nuttall, who was forced to admit that he had not lost “close personal friends” at Hillsborough. The UKIP leader was already facing scepticism over his claim to have been present on the day of the 1989 disaster. This week he admitted that some of the information on his website was wrong. “I haven't lost a close, personal friend,” he said. “I've lost someone who I know.”

Mr Darcy, whose sex appeal was cast into doubt. A composite sketch produced by academics, based on the characteristics typical of an 18th century gentleman, depicts Jane Austen's most famous heart-throb as small and pale, with sloping shoulders, a pointy chin and powdered ponytail.

Poll watch

Theresa May continues to be the most popular politician in the UK: **41%** of voters approve of her, giving her a net popularity rating of +9.

ComRes/The Independent

55% of Europeans want an end to migration from majority-Muslim countries, according to a survey of ten EU countries. **47%** of British people are in favour of a ban, as are **53%** in Germany and **61%** in France. Support is lowest in Spain, at **41%**.

Chatham House/The Times

42% of judges would leave their job if they had a viable alternative. **74%** believe they are underpaid, while **51%** are concerned about their personal safety when in court. Just **2%** feel valued by the Government.

JAS/The Guardian

Dunkirk, France

Abuse claims: Children and women are being raped by people traffickers inside a refugee camp close to Dunkirk, according to detailed testimony gathered to support fresh legal action against the British Government's approach to the welfare of unaccompanied minors. The evidence, reported by The Observer, comes from volunteers, medics and other officials, and from refugees themselves: it suggests that sexual abuse is common within the camp, where numbers have swollen to around 2,000 following the closure of the so-called Jungle camp at Calais in October. Witnesses claim that children and women are forced to have sex with traffickers – dozens of whom are residents in the camp – in return for blankets and food, or the offer of passage to Britain. Last week Home Secretary Amber Rudd announced the end of the “Dubs amendment” scheme, which allowed unaccompanied minors to come to the UK and claim asylum.



Brussels

Juncker's warning:

The president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker (left, with Theresa May), has said he will not seek a second term when his current one ends in 2019, and warned that Brexit negotiations could split the EU. “The other EU 27 [nations] don't know it yet, but the Brits know very well how they can tackle this,” he said in an interview. “They could promise country A this, country B that, and country C something else, and the endgame is that there is not a united European front... Do the Hungarians and the Poles want exactly the same thing as the Germans and the French? I have serious doubts.”

Berlin

New president: Germany's long-time foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier – a fierce critic of Donald Trump, whom he has decried as a “hate preacher” – has been elected president. Although it is a largely ceremonial post, Steinmeier's victory has fuelled a renewed sense of optimism in his party, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), ahead of parliamentary elections later this year. In recent weeks, the SPD has seen a surge in support to reach its highest poll ratings for ten years, making it a real threat to Angela Merkel, long the dominant force in German politics. In his acceptance speech, Steinmeier, 61, said that democratic institutions were under threat, and that Germany must be an “anchor of hope”.

Paris

Russia “attempting to influence election”:

The campaign manager for Emmanuel Macron, the current front runner to be the next president of France, has claimed Russia is trying to undermine the centrist's candidacy, by hacking emails and spreading false news reports. Richard Ferrand, the chief of Macron's party En Marche! (“On the Move”), said thousands of hacking attacks were being carried out from Russia on the movement's IT systems. He also criticised Kremlin-backed news outlets for reporting false claims that Macron is secretly gay, and is backed by a powerful gay lobby. Ferrand's claim echoes a similar warning, leaked last week, by France's external intelligence service. Both of the other leading presidential candidates, the right-winger François Fillon and the far-right's Marine Le Pen, are far more sympathetic than Macron towards Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Paris

Riots following alleged police attack:

The northern suburbs of Paris, populated mainly by poorer people from ethnic minority groups, have seen two weeks of demonstrations and sporadic serious rioting following an alleged incident of horrific police brutality during the arrest of a young black man. The protests began after four police officers were accused of beating and sodomising a 22-year-old youth worker, named only as Théo, during a routine ID check on 2 February at an estate in Aulnay-sous-Bois, in the Seine-Saint-Denis district of northeastern Paris. All four police officers have been charged with assault; one is alleged to have used a police baton to sexually assault the man, who remains in hospital with internal injuries. Days of protests and low-level rioting escalated last weekend into serious clashes between police and hundreds of protesters in the nearby district of Bobigny.

Budapest

Container camps: Amnesty International has accused Hungary's government of stooping to “a new low” after it announced plans to detain all asylum seekers in shipping containers close to its southern border with Serbia. The human rights group said the measure was a clear violation of both EU law and the 1951 Refugee Convention. Hungary's far-right prime minister, Viktor Orbán, said his country would, however, welcome what he called “true refugees” – namely West Europeans fleeing from mass immigration in their own countries, and from a political culture where power lies not with elected politicians but with the unelected “lords of globalist politics”. “We shall let in true refugees”, he told cheering supporters: “Germans, Dutch, French and Italians, terrified politicians and journalists who here in Hungary want to find the Europe they have lost in their homelands.”



Rome

Beppe's anger:

Beppe Grillo, the former comic-turned-politician, has upped the ante in his war on Italy's news media, publishing the names of eight journalists he accuses of waging a war of defamation against his Five Star Movement. The populist party has come under closer scrutiny, not all of it positive, since its candidate Virginia Raggi became mayor of Rome last year. Last month Grillo (above) accused Italy's newspapers of “manufacturing fake news”, and expressed his support for Donald Trump, calling him a sensible “moderate” whose policies had been “twisted” by the press.



Washington DC

Travel ban “based on religious bias”: President Donald Trump’s controversial bid to impose a 90-day ban on travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries was hit with a further legal setback this week, when a judge in Virginia declared it unconstitutional on the basis that it “was not

motivated by rational national security concerns”, but by “religious prejudice” towards Muslims. Trump’s executive order doesn’t specify the religion of those affected, but Judge Leonie Brinkema took into account Trump’s campaign vow to institute a “Muslim ban”. She also referenced a television interview in which Trump’s close ally Rudy Giuliani said that the president wanted a Muslim ban, and that he (Giuliani) had been tasked with determining “the right way to do it legally”. Last week, Trump was angered when a federal appeals court in San Francisco refused to overturn an earlier national suspension of the ban by a court in Washington state. In response, the president tweeted: “See you in court, the security of our nation is at stake!” Despite this, there was speculation this week that Trump would revise and reissue his order, rather than risk defeat in the Supreme Court.

Separately, the leaders of key US allies – Shinzo Abe of Japan and Justin Trudeau of Canada (pictured, with Trump) – visited the White House to cement ties with the new US president.

Lake Oroville, California

Dam fears prompt evacuation: More than 180,000 people in northern California were ordered to evacuate their homes on Sunday after both overflow channels of the tallest dam in the US were found to be damaged. Officials warned that the emergency spillway of the 770ft-high Oroville Dam was at risk of imminent collapse, unleashing floodwaters onto rural communities downstream from Lake Oroville along the Feather River. There was no danger, officials said, of the entire dam collapsing. After a record drought, California has been battered by exceptional rains. With more storms expected, the damaged infrastructure of the Oroville Dam could present a danger for some time yet, however residents were allowed to return to their homes on Tuesday. It is the first such emergency in the dam’s near 50-year history.

Caracas

Vice-president a “drugs kingpin”: Venezuela’s Vice-president Tareck El Aissami, who was appointed by President Nicolás Maduro last month, has been accused by the US government of playing a “significant role in international narcotics trafficking”, and was barred from entering the US. It has also imposed sanctions that prohibit US citizens from doing business with El Aissami, freeze all his US assets (worth tens of millions of dollars), and block the assets of 13 international companies linked to him. The US decree follows an investigation by the US Treasury into El Aissami, who hopes one day to succeed Maduro as president.

Manaus, Brazil

Lost brother found: A Canadian man who disappeared from his Vancouver home five years ago has been found thousands of miles away in a city in the Amazon rainforest, having spent the intervening years walking and hitchhiking through the Americas. Anton Pilipa (pictured) – who had been suffering mental health problems and was facing assault and weapons charges prior to his disappearance – was found by Manaus police wandering barefoot with no passport or other identification papers. A police officer of dual Brazilian-Canadian heritage managed to track down Pilipa’s brother, who has now taken him home to Canada.



New Haven, Connecticut

College renamed: In the face of a rising tide of protests, Yale University announced last weekend that it would be renaming its Calhoun College – named after 19th century US vice-president John C. Calhoun, a white supremacist and supporter of slavery as a “positive good”. The New Haven-based university’s governing body had insisted as recently as last April that it would not rename the college, which opened in 1933 and features a stained-glass window panel depicting slaves carrying bales of cotton. Since then, however, the controversy has intensified: in July a black canteen worker, Corey Menafee, smashed one of the offending windows; criminal charges were brought but then dropped, and Menafee was given back his job. The college is to be renamed after another Yale alumnus, Grace Murray Hopper, a trailblazing computer scientist who also served as a US navy rear admiral.



Vitória, Brazil

Police indicted for “revolt”: The authorities in the Brazilian state of Espírito Santo have charged more than 700 military police officers with the “crime of revolt”, after their illegal strike over pay led to a week of chaos, looting and deadly violence. More than 140 people were killed in the state capital, Vitória, and its environs during the strike: many of the dead were reported to be members of rival criminal gangs. By contrast, there were only four homicides in the city in the whole of January. Life began to get back to normal this week as schools and health centres reopened, and buses and other services hit by the strike chaos resumed. However, Brazil’s defence minister said that 3,000 troops deployed to the state to keep order will remain for the time being.

Raqqah, Syria Briton fights Isis:

A self-styled "revolutionary" from Darwen in Lancashire is believed to be the first British woman to have travelled to Syria to fight against Isis.

Kimberley Taylor, 27, joined the YPJ (an all-female unit of the YPG, the Kurdish militia in northern Syria) last March and, after training and learning Kurdish, she was sent in October to the front line of the push to recapture Raqqah. "I'm willing to give my life for this," Taylor (above) told The Guardian last week. The former Liverpool University maths student now goes by the Kurdish name Zilan Dilmir.



Tbilisi

Plot to "murder" church leader:

Prosecutors in Georgia have charged a high-ranking priest with conspiracy to murder the patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church. Deacon Giorgi Mamaladze, director of the church's property department, was arrested at Tbilisi airport when cyanide was found in his bag. He was on his way to visit Patriarch Ilia II, who is recovering from gall-bladder surgery in hospital in Germany. Local media have reported that the 84-year-old patriarch, who has been in poor health for several years, was the intended target of an alleged conspiracy. "A treacherous attack on the Church has been prevented," declared Georgian PM Giorgi Kvirikashvili. The details have not yet been confirmed by the legal authorities, however, and the alleged motive is unclear.

Gaza Strip

Hamas hardliner elected: The militant Palestinian group Hamas has elected a hard-line commander of its armed wing to be the movement's leader in the Gaza Strip. Yahya Sinwar, 55, served 22 years in Israeli prisons for crimes including murder and kidnapping; he was freed in 2011 under a deal in which Israel released more than 1,000 Palestinians in exchange for a kidnapped Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit. Sinwar is known as a hardliner who rejects the possibility of any lasting reconciliation with Israel. His election is seen as a sign of the growing power of Hamas' armed wing, compared with that of the political side of the movement. The appointment has increased fears in the region that Israel and Hamas (which rules Gaza) are heading towards another armed confrontation.



Rakhine, Myanmar "Thousands" killed:

The number of Rohingya Muslims killed in the Burmese army crackdown that began in October is likely to be in the thousands – far more than previously reported – according to two UN officials working in Bangladesh with refugees fleeing the violence. They said the scale of the crisis in the Rohingya-dominated Rakhine State had not been grasped by the outside world, because the area has been sealed off by Burmese troops.

Dadaab, Kenya Court halts camp's closure:

In a judgment hailed as a historic victory by human rights groups and aid workers, Kenya's high court has ruled that the government cannot shut down Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp. The camp lies close to the Somali border in the east of the country, and is currently home to some 260,000 people, around 200,000 of them Somalis. The judge, John Mativo, found that the Kenyan government's plan to close the camp specifically targeted Somali refugees as an act of group persecution, and was therefore illegal, discriminatory and unconstitutional. The government has long argued that the camp has been used as a recruiting ground and base for the al-Shabaab terror group; it is appealing against the ruling.

Kuala Lumpur

Leader's half-brother "assassinated": Kim Jong Nam, the older half-brother of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, was reportedly assassinated at the main airport in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur on Monday. Kim Jong Nam told authorities he'd been attacked in the airport shopping concourse; he died on the way to hospital. "The deceased felt like someone grabbed or held his face from behind," said Fadzil Ahmat, a police official. Kim Jong Nam was once considered the likely heir to his father, Kim Jong Il, but fell from favour and has mostly lived abroad in recent years; he had been planning to travel to Macau. South Korean media say he was killed with poison needles by two women believed to be North Korean operatives. A female suspect, travelling on a Vietnamese passport, was arrested at Kuala Lumpur airport the following day.

Farewell Spit, New Zealand Whale deaths:

More than 400 pilot whales became stranded on a beach at the tip of New Zealand's South Island last week:



around 300 of them could not be refloated, despite the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, and either died or were euthanised. The geography of Farewell Spit, and the shallow waters of the adjacent Golden Bay, make it a black spot for whale deaths. This was one of the worst mass beachings in New Zealand's history.

Harman on being hated

Harriet Harman was 32 and pregnant when she first became an MP. She toiled on the back- and front benches for decades, campaigned relentlessly for women's rights – and in return was roundly disliked. “It was horrible and lonely and hurtful,” she told Judith Woods in *The Daily Telegraph*. “I was jeered at in the papers for being a po-faced feminist, and I would walk into the Members’ Tea Room in Westminster and have to walk out again because nobody would speak to me, or even acknowledge me.” As Labour’s elder stateswoman, she served as acting party leader during the last two leadership elections. But she never had the confidence to put herself forward for the top job; at least, not until it was too late. “There was a moment,” she admits, “when lots of women in the party were urging me, but by then I had already said I wouldn’t be putting my name forward.” Still, she does feel liked by her colleagues at last. “I walk through the Commons and people greet me and smile at me and talk to me. I feel at home there, accepted. It’s a lovely feeling, even if it did take me over 30 years.”

Remaining strong

Gina Miller is not easily daunted, says Helen Rumbelow in *The Times*. The Guyana-born investment banker came to England at ten, scrubbed hotel toilets as a teenager, and survived two broken marriages and a difficult labour that left

her first child severely brain-damaged. “Now, I’m not frightened of anybody,” she says. “If you speak the truth and do what you think is right – then nobody can bully me. Because of what I’ve been through.” When she launched her legal challenge against the Government to force it to hold a Commons vote on Brexit, the bullies came out in force: she was bombarded with threats, called a “monkey” and a “whore”, and told to leave the country or die like the “next Jo Cox”. All of which proved wholly counterproductive. “The more I started experiencing the abuse, the more I thought I had to stand up to it and carry on. It made me stronger. That’s probably what they didn’t realise.”

Clarke’s costly conundrum

Ken Clarke is passionately anti-Brexit, as he made clear in his recent barnstorming speech to Parliament. But the Tory MP does understand why so many people voted for it. “I think it was mounting anger about economic inequality,” he told Esther Addley in *The Guardian*. This, he admits, is a problem that politicians of all parties have failed to crack. “We go through a period of rapid economic growth, and if you ask the question, ‘How is this going to benefit Hartlepool?’, I can’t pretend I know and I don’t think I have met anyone who does. Right and Left. I don’t think Jeremy Corbyn has the foggiest notion how to spend the benefits of London’s prosperity either.”



Laird Hamilton and Gabrielle Reece are the world’s fittest couple, says Sathnam Sanghera in *The Times*. Reece, 47, is a former volleyball champion; her 52-year-old husband is a legendary big-wave surfer. Athletes and actors come from all over the world to do their \$5,000 three-day XPT intensive fitness course in Malibu – which involves plunging into ice baths, exercising with dumb-bells at the bottom of a pool and sleeping in a refrigerated bed. “It goes back to being primal, when we slept on the cold ground,” explains Hamilton. “What I’m always trying to do is reconnect to your more primal self, because that was a stronger, healthier, actually more content organism.” The same principles govern their diet. The couple eschew “white flour, white sugar and white milk – the Three White Devils”, says Hamilton. “Abuse of sugar in all cultures is, you know, probably the root of a great percentage of diseases. I eat plants and animals. I was paleo before paleo was paleo.” They also fast regularly (“If you throw it in there once in a while, you get high-high brainpower,” explains Reece), and go barefoot, because “the Earth is charged with an electrical frequency that matches your nervous system and immune system”. Above all, says Hamilton, they don’t accept excuses for apathy – from themselves or their clients. “People say, ‘I broke this, I broke that, I can’t work out.’ Get over it! Keep moving! Get off your butt and feel better now!”

Castaway of the week

This week’s edition of Radio 4’s Desert Island Discs featured the actress June Brown, best known as Eastenders’ Dot Cotton

- 1 *Living Doll* by Lionel Bart, performed by Cliff Richard
- 2* *Kashmiri Song (Pale Hands I Loved)* by Amy Woodforde-Finden and Laurence Hope, performed by Deanna Durbin
- 3 *O Brother Man* by John Greenleaf Whittier, performed by Ipswich High School For Girls Choir & Angela Chillingworth
- 4 *The Song of Songs (Chanson Du Coeur Brise)* by Moya, Clarence Lucas and Maurice Vaucare, performed by Christine Brewer & Roger Vignoles
- 5 *Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive* by Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer, performed by Bing Crosby and The Andrews Sisters
- 6 *Ma Belle Marguerite* by Vivian Ellis and A.P. Herbert, performed by Georges Guétary
- 7 *The Skye Boat Song* by Sir Harold Boulton and Anne Campbell MacLeod, performed by Barbara Dickson
- 8 *None But the Lonely Heart* by Tchaikovsky, performed by Lesley Garrett and the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Book: *The Story of San Michele* by Axel Munthe

Luxury: tobacco seeds

* Choice if allowed only one record

Viewpoint:**Authenticity is overrated**

“Be true to yourself” is one of the most common pieces of advice given in graduation speeches. But it is a strange vanity to think that it is this deeper, unfiltered version of ourselves, as opposed to the one we show the world, that is the better part of our nature. My own authentic self, sadly, is a fan of pyjamas and inertia. She doesn’t take out the bin or write thank you notes, or file tax returns. Her heart tends to sink when she spies the lonely man from next door. Authenticity is, at heart, the idea that we should make the way we behave match what we feel on the inside. But really, a functioning society depends on keeping a healthy distance between the two.”

Ruth Whippman, The Observer

Farewell

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, chair of the National Trust, died 2 February, aged 96.

Sir Peter Mansfield, Nobel Prize-winning physicist, died 8 February, aged 83.

Professor Geoffrey Raisman, pioneering neuroanatomist, died 27 January, aged 77.

Alan Simpson OBE, writer who created *Steptoe and Son*, died 8 February, aged 87.

Lord Christopher Thynne, photographer, died 27 January, aged 82.

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The burgers that conquered the world

McDonald's today is such a global institution that its story has been turned into a Hollywood film starring Michael Keaton

Where did McDonald's spring from?

During the Great Depression, Dick and Mac McDonald, two brothers from New Hampshire, headed to California to seek their fortunes in Hollywood. Instead, they ended up opening a small drive-in restaurant in San Bernardino in 1940. McDonald's Famous Bar-B-Q had a large menu centred on barbecue beef, served by female carhops. It did well, but the brothers soon noticed that 80% of their sales came from hamburgers. So in 1948, they closed it down, fired the carhops, and slimmed their menu down to nine items. Customers placed their orders at a window; the kitchen was turned into an assembly line, with staff given simple, specific tasks; food was served in paper wrappings and cups so they didn't need a dishwasher. By the early 1950s, profits had almost doubled. But it wasn't the McDonalds who turned the restaurants into a giant business.



Founder Ray Kroc: "We're in show business"

had bought out the McDonald brothers for \$2.7m, amid some acrimony. They kept their original restaurant, renaming it the "Big M". Kroc opened a McDonald's nearby that drove them out of business.

How has it changed over the years?

McDonald's combined a very strong, consistent brand with a certain amount of innovation, expanding its menu to include the Big Mac (1968); the Egg McMuffin (1973); the Quarter Pounder (1973); the Happy Meal (1979); and Chicken McNuggets (1983). Flops, such as the Hula Burger (pineapple with cheese), were dropped. Vegetable oil replaced beef tallow in 1990. The strategy produced strong growth for 40 years. Its 10,000th unit opened in 1988, four years after Kroc's death, and –

thanks to a massive global expansion – its 20,000th in 1996; the formula varied according to local mores (kosher in Israel, the Maharaja Mac lamb burger in India). By the late 1990s, more than half of its revenues came from abroad. Today, it has some 36,000 restaurants in more than 100 nations (15,000 in the US).

Who was the real founder?

Ray Kroc, a milkshake-mixer salesman from Illinois, who couldn't understand why one hamburger stand in San Bernardino needed eight of his Multi-Mixers. Kroc went to see for himself, and was stunned by the stand's effectiveness – particularly the French fry operation, churning out golden fries, salted with a shaker that, as he put it in his biography *Grinding It Out*, "kept going like a Salvation Army girl's tambourine". The McDonalds had a handful of franchises operating, but Kroc bought the rights to roll them out across the US, starting in April 1955 with one in Des Plaines, Illinois. He had a colour scheme designed in yellow and white, inspired by the 25ft neon-trimmed "golden arches" at the brothers' stand, which would become the firm's logo.

Why did McDonald's become so successful?

Kroc, the self-styled Henry Ford of fast food, built up a restaurant system renowned for providing cheap, tasty food of consistent quality, with uniform methods of preparation. His mantra was "Quality, Service, Cleanliness and Value". He mastered the art of "curing" potatoes and had a computer designed that calculated the optimal time for cooking a batch of fries, in a special beef tallow named Formula 47 (after his 47 cent "All-American Meal" of hamburger, fries and shake). The restaurants were minimalist, with hard plastic chairs and tables, and no phones or jukeboxes, to discourage "loitering". He sold single franchises to individuals and kept close control. From 1961, each franchisee went on a course at his "Hamburger University" in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, earning a certificate in "hamburgerology".

How fast did McDonald's grow?

By 1959, there were 102 restaurants, but it really took off in the 1960s, with the "Look for the Golden Arches" ad campaign. In 1963, Ronald McDonald, "the Hamburger-Happy Clown", appeared on US TV adverts. ("We're not in the hamburger business; we're in show business," Kroc liked to say.) In 1965 McDonald's Corp was floated on the stock market; in 1968 it had opened its 1,000th restaurant. By then, Kroc

But it hasn't all been plain sailing, has it?

Not at all. The firm's first major wobble came around the turn of the century, by which time it had developed a serious image problem. McDonald's, said *The Economist*, had become "the whipping boy of food activists, labour activists, animal rights campaigners and those who simply dislike all things American". It gave the world the McJob; its units were attacked by anti-globalisation rioters, and the French farmer José Bové's supporters destroyed a half-built restaurant in Millau in 1999. Sociologists spoke of the "McDonaldisation" of society. And as the global obesity epidemic gathered pace, it was – quite rightly – seen as a purveyor of fatty, sugary, unhealthy foods. In 2004, for his film *Super Size Me*, Morgan Spurlock ate McDonald's food three times per day for a month, and his BMI increased by 13%. In 2003 the chain announced its first ever quarterly losses. However, a successful restructuring followed, bringing an end to the years of fast growth; 700 units were closed.

How does McDonald's future look now?

In 2014, global profits plunged by 15%; it had long been squeezed by rivals such as Burger King, and recently it had started to lose business to more upmarket "fast casual" chains, such as Shake Shack and Chipotle, which provide higher-quality ingredients. McDonald's responded by trying to improve the "customer experience": healthier options are now available, and in half of US and some UK outlets you can "customise" your burger. It has also improved its ingredients, replacing margarine with butter and banning the routine use of antibiotics by its chicken suppliers. A few years ago, retail experts were saying that McDonald's was undergoing an identity crisis. Now the turnaround seems to be working, with growing global earnings in 2016. In America, though, like-for-like sales are falling – suggesting that its glory days at home may be over.

Franchising the American dream

The modern sales franchise dates back to the 1850s, when Singer Sewing Machines sold the right to sell its product in various regions of the US; allowing the company to increase its turnover without funding a large expansion. The system was adopted by Ford in the early 20th century, and though Kroc wasn't the first to do it in the food industry, he was the big success story. He hand-picked his franchisees, ensured that they were trained to high standards and listened to them: the Egg McMuffin and the Quarter Pounder were invented by franchise holders.

Kroc's system is still essentially the same today. In Britain, if you want to run a McDonald's, you buy a 20-year franchise for £200,000 to £500,000 and pay a one-off fee of £30,000. Then you pay a monthly rent and service fees, based on sales. In 2017, more than 80% of McDonald's 36,000 restaurants are owned by independent franchisees (and the company is trying to reduce the number that it runs directly). Only Subway, another US food franchise, has more outlets.

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Britain's bloody trade in arms

Owen Jones

The Guardian

Britain has blood on its hands in Yemen, says Owen Jones. For the past two years, the Arab country has been engulfed in a vicious civil war fuelled by outside parties. Most of the 10,000 civilian deaths have been caused by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia, Britain's biggest arms client. Under UK export rules, weapons aren't meant to be supplied when there's a "clear risk" of humanitarian laws being breached, yet we've granted licences for £3.3bn-worth of arms to the Saudis during the Yemen conflict. This despite the fact that a UN panel last year declared that humanitarian violations in Yemen were "widespread and systematic", with entire cities being classed as military targets. Yemenis are being driven from their homes by a British-backed bombardment, and are then having their pleas for refuge in the West denied, "partly on the basis that they may be terrorists". It's shameful. The High Court is currently considering the strict legality of our Saudi arms sales, but the moral case against our complicity in this slaughter is already unarguable.

Intellectuals have some awful ideas

Dominic Lawson

The Sunday Times

Last week's BBC report will have gratified opponents of Brexit, says Dominic Lawson. It revealed data analysis showing that the Leave vote was strongly associated with lower educational qualifications. This finding will have been "catnip to unreconciled Remainers, reinforcing their claims of superior understanding". But it's not the vindication they think it is. Throughout history, the educated middle classes have fallen for, or concocted, ideas that turn out to be misguided – or worse. The doctrines of both Marxism and Nazism, for instance, were formulated by highly educated men and then "propagandised to the masses – who would never have had the arrogance to construct such schemes". The intellectual Left was a great proponent of eugenics at the turn of the last century: the Manchester Guardian sang its praises, as did John Maynard Keynes, Sidney and Beatrice Webb, and Bertrand Russell, "commonly regarded as the most brilliant Briton of the age". So don't knock the "uneducated": we need them to protect us from the schemes of brilliant idiots.

Populists need the Establishment

Jan-Werner Müller

Financial Times

Is an "unstoppable populist wave" about to sweep away the political elites in forthcoming elections in the Netherlands, France and Germany? Unlikely, says Jan-Werner Müller. After the Brexit vote and the election of Donald Trump, it may look as if populists are carrying all before them, but both those victories depended on support from established conservative politicians. Nigel Farage didn't deliver Brexit on his own. He had help from Boris Johnson and Michael Gove, not to mention the Tory press. Trump, likewise, didn't win as the outside candidate of a third party. He enjoyed the reluctant backing of the Republican party, and vocal support from establishment figures such as Rudy Giuliani. In Austria, by contrast, the far-right presidential candidate Norbert Hofer, who lacked mainstream conservative allies, failed to win last year's election. That precedent is probably more relevant to the three forthcoming elections on the continent, where the populist contenders – Geert Wilders, Marine Le Pen and the far-right Alternative for Germany party – are, for now at least, notably short of establishment collaborators.

"Fake news" is a gift to politicians

Michael Deacon

The Daily Telegraph

There's a new buzzword in our political lexicon, says Michael Deacon: "fake news". The proliferation of misleading information on the internet is bad for our democracy, but politicians have been quick to spot a big upside for them in this phenomenon: they can use it to dodge tricky questions. Donald Trump endlessly bats away awkward facts with a cry of "fake news", and other leaders are now following his example. At last week's PMQs, when Jeremy Corbyn read out leaked text messages that threatened to embarrass the Government over social care funding, Theresa May dismissed them as "alternative facts". The Labour leader "looked appalled", but resorted to the same trick himself less than 24 hours later. Pressed during an interview about rumours that he was planning to stand down, Corbyn dismissed what he claimed was fabricated speculation, saying that he was "really surprised" that "the BBC is reporting fake news". You can see the irresistible appeal of this tactic to politicians. What could be better than a phrase that not only enables you to avoid a question, but also to turn the tables on your inquisitor by questioning their integrity?

IT MUST BE TRUE... I read it in the tabloids

A cheating Frenchman is suing Uber after his wife discovered that he had been using the taxi app to visit his mistress. The unnamed businessman says he once used his wife's iPhone to request an Uber driver. Although he then logged out, the app continued to send notifications to her phone, alerting her to his suspicious movements. The couple are now divorced, and he is suing Uber for up to £38m. "My client was the victim of a bug in an app," says his lawyer. "The bug has caused him problems in his private life."

Six government bureaucrats in central China have been punished for dozing off during a meeting about how to motivate lazy bureaucrats. The sleepy officials were named and shamed by the Communist Party discipline bureau in Hubei province. They have been ordered to write "self-criticisms" and make public apologies.



A Texas couple who share their home with a 180-stone buffalo have admitted that he has almost killed them several times. Wild Thing was just a calf when his owners, retired buffalo farmers Ronnie and Sherron Bridges, decided to raise him as a pet ten years ago. He can wander in and out of the house at will, but eats at the table with the Bridges and has his own bedroom where he likes to watch TV. "He's not safe for other people to come near," says Ronnie. "Something spooked him and he hit me between his horns and carried on running with me holding on. My wife thought I was dead! But we wouldn't have life any other way. He's our pet and we love him."

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Russia's aggression in Ukraine cannot go unchecked

President Trump's intuition that the US needs to re-engage with Russia is essentially correct, said Thomas E. Graham in *The National Interest* (Washington DC). The "grand ambition to integrate Russia into the Euro-Atlantic community as a free-market democracy has failed". So, too, has the policy pursued under the Obama administration of trying to contain and isolate it. How to normalise relations without hurting America's national interest is the most urgent foreign policy issue Trump now faces. But it won't be pleasant or easy.



was a good time to strike. If so, he miscalculated. "Ukraine is not broken and will defend itself." Its army is a far more effective force than it was two years ago. And Ukrainians are in no mood to compromise, said Isaac Webb in *Foreign Policy* (Washington DC). When Ukrainian oligarch Victor Pinchuk wrote an article suggesting his country might have to cede Crimea in exchange for peace, the public backlash was so intense that he became a "political pariah" overnight.

Even less so after the latest flare-up of violence in Ukraine, said Vladimir Frolov in *The Moscow Times*. Moscow is hoping Trump will stick by the pledges made during his campaign that a Trump administration would accept Russia's annexation of Crimea, and lift the economic sanctions to which it gave rise. But it also wants to size up Trump's position on the conflict in Ukraine's Donbas region, where two Moscow-backed separatist "republics", Donetsk and Luhansk, have taken control. There are signs Trump would want Russia's complete withdrawal from Donbas as part of any settlement; but Vladimir Putin's "ideal scenario" is to keep informal control of Donbas even after sanctions are lifted. Last week's intense fighting between separatist rebels and Ukrainian forces around Avdiivka, a city on the unofficial border between the breakaway republics and the rest of Ukraine, has brought matters to a head.

Deliberately so, on Putin's part, said Halya Coynash in *Al Jazeera English* (Dubai). There have been constant violations by both sides in the Minsk ceasefire agreement signed two years ago, but Russia undoubtedly provoked this one. The launching of Grad missiles from areas under Kremlin-backed militant control was a clear sign. So was the sophisticated psychological campaign employed against Ukrainian soldiers, who were bombarded with texts telling them their own commanders regarded them as "just meat". Putin may have decided that as Ukraine can no longer count on America's unconditional support, this

But Ukraine still needs America's financial help if it is to counter Russia's many destabilising attacks, said Michał Kokot in *Gazeta Wyborcza* (Warsaw). Only a few weeks ago, a cyberattack on Kiev's power grid left the north of the city without power. Obama stumped up more than \$1bn in loans: the fear is this will dry up under Trump. But for Kiev, the real nightmare scenario is that Trump's move to relax the sanctions against Russia will trigger a domino effect in Europe. Germany's Angela Merkel is standing firm, but her Social Democrat coalition partner Sigmar Gabriel has already called for them to be scrapped. Yet, if anything, new sanctions are needed to punish Russia for its latest violence, said Richard Herzinger in *Die Welt* (Berlin). Alas, many Europeans see it differently: too often in Germany one hears people saying that Putin is no worse than Hungary's Viktor Orbán or Trump himself, as if these democratically elected rulers also killed their critics and annexed other countries as Putin does. The appeal to be "nice" to Putin is profoundly "damaging to our democracy".

Europeans mustn't give in to "Ukrainian fatigue", said Florent Parmentier in *Le Point* (Paris). At a time when Europe has been weakened by Brexit and skyrocketing tensions with Russia, it's tempting to throw up one's hands and say that Ukraine is too weak and corrupt to be worth defending. We must accept that moving from Soviet repression to liberal democracy takes time, especially in a nation harassed by a strong neighbour. Europe must resist any deal with Russia that Ukraine can't accept.

TURKEY

Erdogan's baffling attack on academics

Hürriyet
(Istanbul)

The mass sackings of Turkey's public servants in the "struggle against terrorism" have ceased to surprise, but one still wonders what they're meant to achieve, says Murat Yetkin. The latest batch, totalling almost 4,500 staff, includes 330 academics, the country's top intellectuals among them. They include 82-year-old Öget Öktem Tanör, Turkey's foremost expert in neuropsychology, Ibrahim Kaboglu, an internationally renowned professor of constitutional law, and Ibrahim Yagcı, one of Turkey's prominent conductors. The academics' "crime", in many cases, is to have signed a peace petition last year begging President Erdogan to stop harassing Turkey's Kurds, or a second one pleading for the reinstatement of people dismissed for signing the first. It means some university departments will have to close. Even government supporters are baffled by the move. Some even suggest it's a scheme cooked up by disloyal officials out to discredit Erdogan. Something is going "terribly wrong" in Turkey, but with so little information released, it's hard to know exactly what.

GERMANY

An art project that sparked a historical row

Badische Zeitung
(Freiburg)

I fear Dresden is fated always to be the centre of controversy, says Bernhard Honnigfort. The latest eruption has been caused by a well-meaning attempt by Manaf Halbouni, a German-Syrian artist, to commemorate the victims of President Assad's bombing campaign. The three upended buses he has had raised in Dresden's central Neumarkt square are a memorial to the dead of Aleppo, a symbol of the barricades erected by residents to protect themselves from army snipers. Where better to site it than the city that suffered one of the worst bombardments of the Second World War? But Dresden's right-wingers have chosen to see it as a provocation, an attempt to block the anti-immigrant marches they regularly hold in the square. They're also furious that city mayor Dirk Hilbert used the opening ceremony to denounce the powerful "sacrificial myth" of the "bombing holocaust". Dresden was never the "innocent city" Nazi leaders proclaimed at the time, the mayor pointed out; it housed huge military barracks and weapons factories. Nor did hundreds of thousands perish, as extremists claim; historians now agree the true figure was around 25,000. Yet Hilbert is getting death threats, and he and his family are now under police protection. Beware the myths of propaganda – they never heal.

Are America and Iran heading for a confrontation?

"The ritual chants of 'Death to America' had grown fainter in recent years," said [The Economist](#). "The feverish crowds had thinned." But Iranians turned out in force again last Friday to commemorate the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution and to voice defiance towards the US. They're furious about President Trump's decision to impose fresh sanctions on Iran in retaliation for test-firing a ballistic missile, and about his executive order (currently suspended by the courts) blocking Iranians from travelling to the US. The Trump administration has talked of putting the Islamic Republic "on notice". In response, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, mocked the president in an anniversary address, saying: "Thank you, Mr Trump, for showing the true face of America."



The "true face of America"?

nuclear deal, it's free of UN and EU sanctions and has a big economy: it's now the second-largest producer of steel in the Middle East, exporting to China, India and Russia. Iran has also expanded its influence over recent years, said Liz Sly and Loveday Morris in [The Washington Post](#). Indeed, "so pervasive" is its presence across the region, particularly in Iraq, that "it's hard to see how any US administration could easily roll it back without destabilising allies, endangering Americans and undermining the war against Isis".

It was only a matter of time before the "inexperienced" Trump clashed with Iran, said Roxane Farmanfarman on [Al Jazeera English \(Doha\)](#). The important thing now is to stop this row escalating. The Islamic Republic, much like Trump himself, "doesn't back down" in the face of threats; it hits back. So a subtler approach is needed. Trump must remember that Iran is not the "lonely pariah" it once was. As a result of the 2015

Another complication for Trump, said Michael Weiss on [The Daily Beast \(New York\)](#), is that Iran is a close ally these days with his friend Russia. The two are propping up the Assad regime in Syria, and Iran is buying a lot of Russian arms. Trump thinks he can cleave Moscow away from the mullahs, but experts doubt he can. You never know, said David P. Goldman in [Asia Times \(Hong Kong\)](#). If the US adopts a more cooperative approach with Russia, turning a blind eye to its illegal seizure of Crimea and perhaps offering to accept its annexation of eastern Ukraine, it might yet "persuade Putin to ditch the troublesome Persians". Given the importance of containing Iran, it's certainly worth a go.

PHILIPPINES

One brutal police force is quite enough

Philippine Daily Inquirer (Manila)

"For an avowed anti-American, President Duterte sure does copy the Americans a lot," says the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. The signature policy of his administration is his so-called war on drugs, which follows – albeit with added brutality – the failed template set by Richard Nixon four decades ago. Having now been forced to suspend this crackdown after rogue police officers kidnapped and strangled a South Korean businessman, Duterte has decided to go after the bad apples in law enforcement by floating the idea of reviving the Philippine Constabulary (PC), the police force established by the American colonial authorities in 1901 and abolished 26 years ago. "History has not looked kindly on the PC", which is remembered for its appalling human rights record during the martial law years, when it was "often used as the Marcos regime's blunt tool of coercion". Because the Filipino constitution allows for only a single police force, Duterte plans to reactivate the constabulary as a military unit empowered to take on misbehaving police officers. In effect, "he is ready to let one armed group wage war on another". This is "reckless beyond belief". The way to rein in corrupt officers is to arrest and prosecute them, not shoot them.

UNITED STATES

Get ready for the "Smart Machine Age"

The Washington Post

Donald Trump is barking up the wrong tree on the jobs issue, says Ed Hess. He's preoccupied with other nations taking US jobs, when what he should be worried about is the threat from machines. Over the next five to 15 years, a "technology tsunami" is going to hit the US job market. The best research to date suggests that almost half of all US jobs – some 80 million of them – could be lost as a result of advances in artificial intelligence, 3D manufacturing, robotics, driverless vehicles and other emerging technologies. This is no longer "science fiction". Optimists insist there's nothing to worry about: technology will generate new jobs to replace the old ones, they say, just as it did during the Industrial Revolution. Perhaps. But let's not forget that "the human disruption caused by the Industrial Revolution in Britain lasted 60 to 90 years". That's a long period of painful adjustment. Besides, who's to say that the new jobs created won't themselves be better done by machines? "We need to begin preparing ourselves, our families and our nation by mastering those skills that technology cannot replace. We need to rethink human excellence for the Smart Machine Age."

CHINA

China needs to think up a new game plan

Project Syndicate (Prague)

It's impossible to predict quite what the Trump era will bring, says Minxin Pei, but one thing is already clear: it has "upended the key assumptions underpinning China's post-Cold War grand strategy". Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Beijing has concentrated on developing commercial ties with the West, in the confident expectation that the US and its allies will keep leading the process of economic globalisation, while remaining essentially friendly powers. But that "operating environment" has changed. The election of Trump, the Brexit vote and the rise of far-right populism in Europe have cast doubt on the future of Western liberal democracy. "De-globalisation now seems to be a given" – which is potentially disastrous for China, "the world's largest exporter by volume and arguably globalisation's greatest beneficiary". The national security implications of Trump's election for China are even more worrying. Beijing used to take it for granted that the US "would continue to place a high priority on conflict avoidance", but it now believes Trump is "itching for a fight". China is going to have to devise an entirely new grand strategy to cope with today's shifting political landscape.

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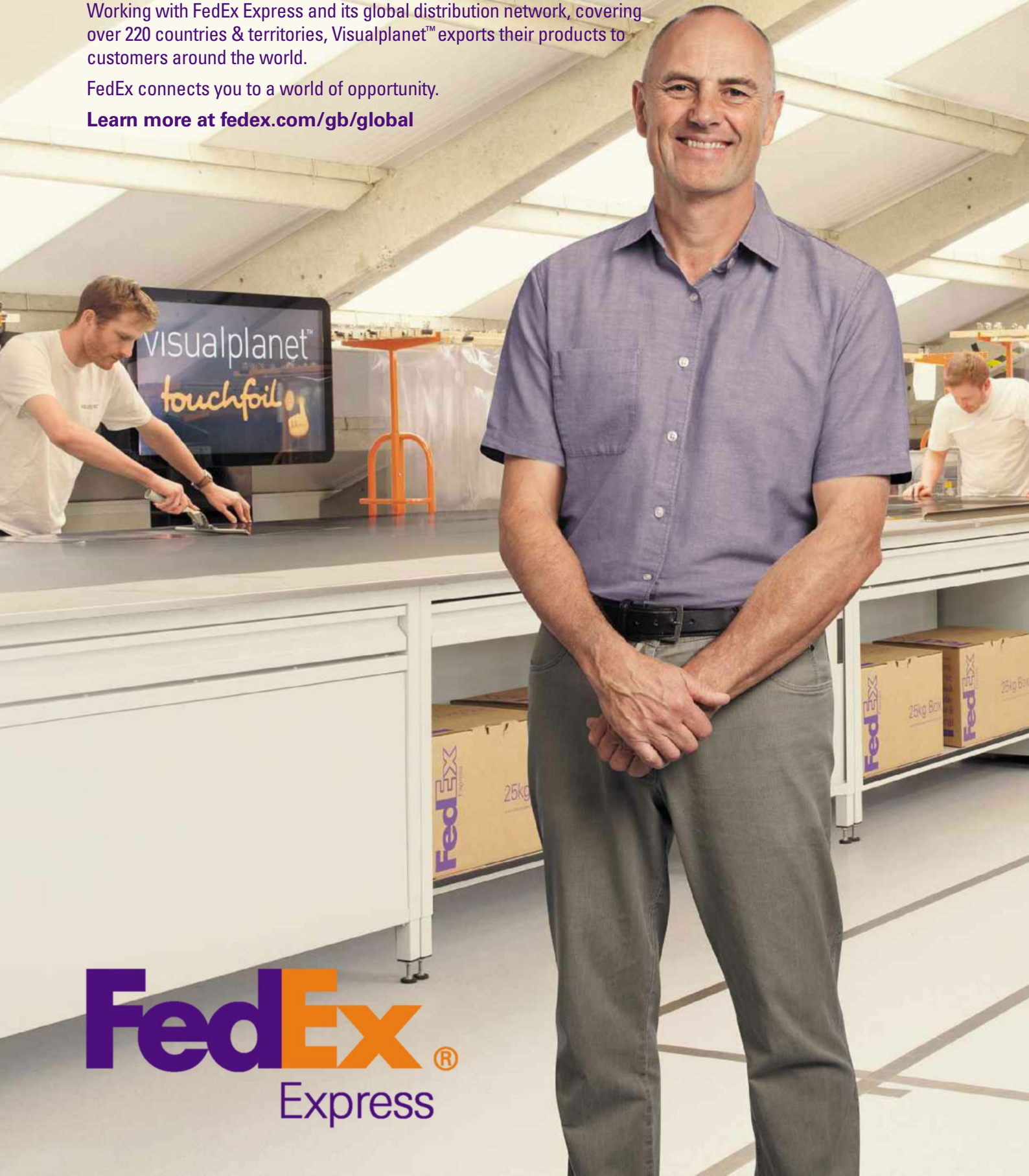
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What the scientists are saying...

Painkillers no good for backache

If you suffer from a bad back, don't rely on over-the-counter painkillers to ease the agony. So say researchers from Sydney University, after reviewing 35 studies into the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to treat neck and lower back pain. They found that while there is evidence that NSAIDs provide some relief from pain, this is only of "clinical significance" for one in six patients. Furthermore, the patients who took NSAIDs were two-and-a-half times more likely to suffer from gastrointestinal problems, such as stomach ulcers, say the researchers in the journal *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*. That being the case, they argue that the benefits of the drugs are outweighed by the risks. "When you factor in the side effects, which are very common, it becomes clear these drugs are not the answer to providing pain relief to the many millions who suffer from this debilitating condition every year," said lead author Manuela Ferreira. Previous studies have found that paracetamol and opioids are also largely ineffective for back pain. The researchers suggest that until more effective analgesics become available, the key may be to focus on exercises that seem to ease and help prevent back pain.

A new, reversible vasectomy

A male contraceptive gel that works a bit like a vasectomy, but that may be far easier to reverse than a vasectomy, has been shown to prevent conception in monkeys, reports *The Guardian*. The substance, Vasalgel, is injected into the sperm duct, or vas deferens, where it forms a long-lasting barrier. (In vasectomies, the vas deferens is severed and the two ends cauterised, tied off or clipped.) The gel fills the interior of the passage, blocking sperm – which are



Vasalgel: both effective and reversible

simply reabsorbed into the body – but still allowing seminal fluid to be released. When 16 male rhesus monkeys, which have similar reproductive tracts to humans, were injected with Vasalgel and released into an enclosure with females, it proved 100% effective in preventing pregnancy – and caused less inflammation than vasectomies typically do. But as the procedure still involves minor surgery, to pull the sperm tubes out, its key advantage over a vasectomy is its reversibility. In theory, the barrier simply breaks down when a second solution is injected and is then flushed out. This has been tested successfully on rabbits – but not, so far, on monkeys. There is also a risk that the reabsorbed sperm could trigger an immune reaction that leaves men less fertile after reversal. However, the study's authors say it is still better, in that respect, than a vasectomy: 50% of men remain infertile after a vasectomy reversal.

Vaping: the good and the bad

E-cigarettes are far less harmful than tobacco cigarettes, judging by the different levels of carcinogens in smokers' bodies, a new study has concluded. For the research, 181 smokers and former smokers of tobacco provided samples of breath, saliva and urine, which were tested for levels of carcinogens. The results showed that those who had quit smoking at least six months earlier (and taken up vaping) had far lower levels than the cigarette smokers of carcinogens associated with pancreatic, stomach, colon and lung cancers. However, people who did both – perhaps in a bid to slowly wean themselves off tobacco – still had very high levels of carcinogens. Although the results back Public Health England's conclusion that e-cigarettes are 95% less harmful than normal ones, vaping has not been given the all-clear: for one thing, there remains concern about its impact on the cardiovascular system. Nor did the study address claims that e-cigarettes act as a "gateway" to smoking tobacco.

Dogs have "core morality"

If you treat someone badly, their dog may notice and hold it against you. For a study at Kyoto University, researchers recruited 54 dog owners and – without explaining why – asked them to pretend to struggle to open a box while their dog observed. After a few seconds the owners sought assistance from an actor, who either helped them or turned away. Finally, both the actor and a third, unfamiliar person held out a treat to the dog. If the actor had helped the owner, most of the dogs accepted the treat from them; but if they hadn't helped, the dog usually chose the neutral person. This, the researchers said, shows that dogs have a "core morality", similar to that of humans, which operates irrespective of self-interest.

The crab that tears its helpers in two

Boxer crabs are so named because they are almost always seen holding sea anemones in their feeble claws, which they jab at attacking fish to scare them off – and now researchers have found that's not all there is to this strange relationship. Most crabs gather food with their claws, but the boxer crab, barely an inch long, uses anemones to trap food particles and sting prey – and is so reliant on them that it struggles to survive if the anemones are removed.



The researchers, from Bar-Ilan University in Israel, observed that if the crabs are deprived of one of their anemones, they will rip the one they have left in half, to make two. (Sea anemones can regenerate so, in this way, the crabs are cloning them: for the type of anemone studied it may, in fact, be one of their main forms of reproduction.) And if a crab has no anemone, it will fight another crab to get theirs and then split that in two. It's not clear what benefit the anemone derives from being with the crab. Indeed, the relationship seems quite abusive. For instance, the team found that the crab controls its anemones' food intake, thus keeping them small enough to hold: when freed from the crabs, the anemones flourished, doubling in size.

Women's cancer rates rising

Cancer rates are expected to rise six times faster among women than men over the next 20 years. An analysis by Cancer Research UK suggests that rates will rise by about 3% for women and 0.5% for men – meaning that, by 2035, almost as many women (an estimated 4.5 million) will have been diagnosed with cancer as men (4.8 million). This catch-up effect, the researchers say, will mainly be driven by increases in obesity. While obesity is more common among men than women, many of the cancers most linked to weight – such as breast, womb and ovarian cancer – are mainly or exclusively female diseases; rises in obesity, therefore, disproportionately affect women. The cancer gender gap is also closing because women drink more than they used to, and because although smoking rates are declining now, many women took up the habit in the mid-20th century, as men were starting to quit.

Pick of the week's *Gossip*

The Wicked Witch of the East wasn't the only miscreant in Oz. According to **Judy Garland's** late ex-husband, the Munchkins were shameless sex pests. "They would make Judy's life miserable by putting their hands under her dress," reveals the posthumous memoir of **Sid Luft**. "They thought they could get away with anything because they were so small." It isn't the first report of bad behaviour by the actors who played the Munchkins. "They were drunks," Garland once claimed. "They put them all in one hotel in Culver City and they got smashed every night, and they'd pick them up in butterfly nets."



Tom Jones is courting **Priscilla Presley** – ex-wife of his old friend **Elvis**. The Welsh crooner, 76, was spotted dining at a Hollywood restaurant with Presley, 71. Elvis fans noted that Jones, whose wife **Linda** died last year, was wearing blue suede shoes. Their mutual friend **Tony Christie**, 73, confirmed the romance, saying: "It's really lovely, you should have somebody in your old age."

They may be a long way from Peckham, but the citizens of Montenegro nurse a passion for *Only Fools and Horses*. **Nicholas Lyndhurst** – who played Rodney Trotter in the BBC sitcom – has revealed that he got mobbed by fans when he first visited the tiny Balkan country in 2013. "As I walked down the road, people outside the restaurants and bars stood up and they all started to applaud. I felt like the Queen."

British prisons: a "shocking" state of affairs

Some people are still inclined to dismiss talk of a prison crisis as "so much liberal hand-wringing", said *The Guardian*. But anyone who watched this week's BBC *Panorama* investigation into conditions in HMP Northumberland will know better. The undercover report revealed a shocking state of affairs: widespread drug use; a broken door alarm; a fence with a hole in; and inexperienced staff members barely holding the line. The chaotic, dangerous conditions clearly made all but the "most perfunctory" attempts at rehabilitation or training impossible. Alas, Northumberland is by no means untypical: the same problems are evident in prisons across England and Wales. This is the grim context of the speech Liz Truss, the Justice Secretary, gave this week outlining prison reforms that will come before Parliament later this year.



Truss: ruled out a cap on numbers

Like her three Tory predecessors, Truss wants to curb recidivism through rehabilitation, said Ian Birrell in *The Independent*. "We have, thankfully, come a long way since Michael Howard claimed prison worked and New Labour pathetically created a fresh criminal offence for each day in office." The legacy of that approach is that there are now more people locked up in England and Wales per head of

population than anywhere else in Western Europe. Around 25% of those let out currently reoffend within a year of release. Truss wants to tackle this high reoffending rate by reforming offenders, intervening earlier, and introducing smarter treatment for mental health problems and addiction. Which "all makes perfect sense" – but would require "serious money" to work.

Reforms will achieve little unless we solve the problem of overcrowding, said *The Times*. Truss, who has ruled out

imposing a cap on prisoner numbers, is right to note that the doubling of the prison population over the past 25 years (to 85,000) is partly due to more sex offenders being convicted. But it's mostly the result of "steadily longer sentences". We're just "keeping too many people inside for too long". And it looks as if we're going to continue doing so, said Rebecca Roberts on *OpenDemocracy*. In the next few weeks, a new mega-prison, HMP Berwyn, is due to open in north Wales. When fully operational, it will hold more than 2,000 inmates, making it the largest prison in the UK. It's the first of several planned buildings that are set to provide 10,000 more prison places. Surely the £1.3bn allocated for new prisons "could be more wisely invested in community and social welfare provision".

Satire: booming in the Trump era

"Barack Obama was bad for satirists, even if few seemed to mind," said *The Economist*. "Moderate, upstanding and cool, the first black president gave close observers of human ridiculousness little to work with." But, thankfully, "Donald Trump is making satire great again". US comedy shows are relishing the rich array of targets provided by the new administration. *Saturday Night Live*, a "hitherto jaded platform for comedy skits on NBC", is seeing its best ratings for 20 years: Alec Baldwin's impression of Trump as an "irascible halfwit" has prompted objections from the president himself, while Melissa McCarthy's brutal parody of press secretary Sean Spicer as "a gum-chewing maniac" has turned him into a national figure of fun.



SNL's McCarthy as Spicer

Satire is booming on this side of the Atlantic, too, said Nadia Khomami in *The Guardian*. *Private Eye* achieved its biggest-ever print circulation in the second half of 2016; the Christmas issue sold the most in the title's 55-year history, shifting 287,334 copies. The magazine's editor, Ian Hislop, thinks Trump and

Brexit are responsible. "People are so gloomy that they want something to laugh at," he says.

Peter Cook used to say that his comedy club, *The Establishment*, was based on the Berlin cabaret clubs of the 1930s – which, as he put it, "did so much to prevent the rise of Hitler". Consider that, said Hugo Rifkind in *The Times*, "when you giggle at the latest online evisceration of Donald Trump". The failure of satirists in today's political climate is that they preach to the converted, each in their own little bubbles.

America's mostly left-leaning comics "ripped into Trump at every point during his rise and their audiences howled, and look how that turned out". But it's not satire's job to change things, said Viv Groskop in *The Guardian*. People who think we ought to be marching or "resisting" rather than making jokes are rather missing the point. It is sad, though, that satire does seem so politically partisan today. It's hard to imagine a show doing what *Yes Minister* or *Spitting Image* did in the past: pulling in a national TV audience and getting "them all to laugh at the same thing".

Ivanka Trump: the business of politics

For once, I agree with Donald Trump, said Ryan Barrell in *The Independent*. The president last week launched one of his Twitterstorms – this time against the US department store Nordstrom, which, along with six other retailers, has dropped his daughter Ivanka's fashion line. Ivanka had been treated "so unfairly", protested Trump. "She is a great person – always pushing me to do the right thing! Terrible!" In truth, it isn't Nordstrom he should take issue with. The company only dropped Ivanka's line after sales dried up. And that is the fault of Grab Your Wallet, a boycott campaign organised by feminists outraged by Trump's "grab them by the pussy" boast. Shunning Trump's businesses is one thing – but to "lump Ivanka in with this boycott is ridiculous, and a little bit sexist". She is not a mere "extension of her patriarch", but an entrepreneur in her own right. What's more, she's the only friend progressives have in the White House. A proud advocate for working women, she has been credited with stopping her father's plan to roll back LGBT rights.



Trump: treated "unfairly"?

Ivanka's character is beside the point, said David Osborne in the same paper. Her family's business interests are corrupting democracy. The president's senior adviser, Kellyanne Conway, went on TV last week to urge viewers to buy

Ivanka's clothes. "This is just a wonderful line," she gushed. "I own some of it... Go buy Ivanka's stuff is what I would say." As well as making the White House look like "the new home of the Shopping Channel", this broke one of the "most basic ethics rules out there: those employed in the executive branch may not use their position to help friends or family to financial gain". Yet Conway remains in her post, and Trump continues to treat high office as a marketing wheeze. His hotel business – now officially run by his sons – is booming, with

plans to quintuple the number of outlets in the US. Even Melania Trump, "the missing-in-action first lady", has one eye on the money. Last week she issued a writ against the owners of the *Daily Mail* for running an article which damaged her reputation, and therefore her "unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" to "launch a broad-based commercial brand".

"No US president in history has triggered anything close to this many conflicts of interest," said Edward Luce in the *FT*. Public faith in US institutions is already frayed: last week the Economist Intelligence Unit downgraded American democracy from "full" to "flawed". By the end of Trump's presidency, the damage may be "incalculable".

Wit & Wisdom

"No matter how I go, I want it reported that I drowned in moonlight, strangled by my own bra."

Carrie Fisher, quoted in New York magazine

"Blessed are the forgetful, for they get the better even of their blunders."

Nietzsche, quoted in The Guardian

"I like a friend the better for having faults that one can talk about."

William Hazlitt, quoted on The Browser

"Like the measles, love is most dangerous when it comes late in life."

Lord Byron, quoted on Forbes.com

"I want a man who's kind and understanding. Is that too much to ask of a millionaire?"

Zsa Zsa Gabor, quoted in the Daily Mail

"There is no finer revenge than that which others inflict on your enemy."

Cesare Pavese, quoted on The Browser

"I do not believe that friends are necessarily the people you like best, they are merely the people who got there first."

Peter Ustinov, quoted in The Times

"The chief trick to making good mistakes is not to hide them – especially not from yourself."

Philosopher Daniel Dennett, quoted in The Observer

"If you listen, you learn; if you talk, you don't."

Actor John Hurt, quoted in The Daily Telegraph

Statistic of the week

The number of women having cosmetic surgery has plunged to its lowest in a decade, owing to economic uncertainty. Only 28,300 women went under the knife in 2016, down 39% on the previous year, while male cosmetic procedures fell by half in one year.

Daily Mail

Diane Abbott: a victim of "vile" misogyny?

The story that emerged from a Commons bar last week sounds "like a relic from the 1970s", said Frances Ryan on *The Pool*. David Davis, "Brexiteer Secretary and casual sexist", allegedly tried to kiss Labour MP Diane Abbott in a show of mock-gratitude, after she reluctantly voted to trigger Article 50. She told him to "F*** off". But Davis later told a friend, in a text exchange leaked to the press, that no kiss had been intended: "I whispered in her ear 'Thanks for your vote' hence the 'F off'. I am not blind." He then added, in case the joke was too subtle to grasp, that the idea of him kissing Abbott "would make a good *Optical Express* advert".



Abbott: a stream of abuse

"Well, this is hilarious, isn't it?" said Suzanne Moore in *The Guardian*. Lurching at a "recoiling" woman in a bar; humiliating her in public; mocking her looks behind her back. This isn't "banter" – it's racist, sexist "bullying". The tropes of "misogynoir" are plain to see: "the black woman is always desirable as well as undesirable, and reduced to a sexual identity". In her 30 years in politics, Abbott has had to put up with a constant stream of this sort of abuse:

only recently, a Tory councillor was suspended for retweeting an image of Abbott as an ape wearing lipstick. When will this "rabble of men" realise that bullying women "really isn't funny"?

Davis' text conversation may have been "on the far side of ungallant", said Sam Leith in the *London Evening Standard*, but it was "on the near side of sexism". We are all allowed not to fancy people, and to say so to our friends. Not any more, said Brendan O'Neill on *Spiked*. "In Britain in 2017, you can be

punished for your private thoughts." Davis has been branded "vile" and "disgusting" by Labour MPs, and forced to apologise for a joke that he made in private to a friend. And that "should worry you far more than what Davis actually said". After all, we all "say things in text messages or over drinks that we would never dream of saying publicly". The private sphere is the last unpoliced zone of life, where we go to be honest, rude, angry or silly; to "bash out ideas and emotions and make ourselves ready for engagement in the public world". It must not be surrendered to the "shut-it-down brigade".

Rugby union: England's "finishers" hold their nerve

"England have become a side who do not know when they are beaten," said Paul Rees in *The Observer*. As they neared the end of their "ferocious" Six Nations tie against Wales last Saturday, they were trailing by two points. But Eddie Jones' side "held their nerve". With less than five minutes to go, Owen Farrell made a lovely pass to Elliot Daly, who scored "a try worthy of winning any match"; Farrell's subsequent conversion made it a 21-16 victory. It was the closest England have come to defeat in Jones' year as coach. They have now won 16 matches in a row, more than any England side in history – and they are just two wins short of the All Blacks' world record of 18.



Farrell and Daly: a "ferocious" match

How do England keep doing it, asked Robert Kitson in *The Guardian*. In each of their past four Tests "they have been backed into a corner, only to wriggle free each time". They are at their best in the final minutes: under Jones, they have conceded 20% fewer points in the second half than in the first. They owe that, in part, to a training regime known as "tactical periodisation". Rather than practising skills, tactics and fitness separately, as teams traditionally do, England combine them at "above-average intensity": dedicated "physical" days feature more contact than in matches; on "fast days", players spend most of the session above game speed. So when they play in actual

matches, they're not just fitter, but primed to "react quicker at critical moments". And if any players do run out of steam, said Owen Slot in *The Times*, Jones can call on his "finishers". That's his name for the players on the bench – like Ben Te'o and James Haskell – who have come to the rescue in both Six Nations matches so far. Jones treats them like "a Swat team of problem solvers": he prepares them with training challenges in which they pretend that the team is a certain number of points down, with a limited number of minutes left to play. That's not just a way to extract as much as possible from substitutes; it's a way to make second-choice players feel valued.

Poor Wales, said Oliver Holt in *The Mail* on Sunday. They threw "absolutely everything" at England. "Courageous, accomplished and utterly, utterly committed", they were the better side for much of the match. And it still wasn't enough. Even so, this was their "best performance in a long while", said Andy Bull in *The Guardian*. And it was testament to the high quality of this year's tournament. For the first time in its history, three of the teams are ranked inside the world's top five: England (No. 2), Ireland (No. 4) and Wales (No. 5). Credit that to England's success: they have set standards so high that everyone else has been "lifted to another level".

Cricket: Root takes the reins

"In the least surprising move since England last needed a new Test captain", England have appointed Joe Root as Alastair Cook's successor, said Stephan Shemilt on BBC Sport online. Promoted from vice-captain, the 26-year-old has long been tipped for the top job: as a schoolboy, he was nicknamed "FEC" – future England captain. Since his debut in 2012, he has made good on that promise, scoring 4,594 Test runs – more than any other batsman in that time – and maturing into "perhaps the most complete three-format player" the country has produced. But Root takes on the mantle as one of the least experienced skippers in England history: he has captained a first-class team on just four occasions.



Root: little experience

On the face of it, Root is a very different proposition from Cook, said Ed Smith in *The Sunday Times*. Where Cook is understated, Root is "bubbly"; Cook is cautious, Root "daring". Yet the new

captain has risen to the top for the same reason as his predecessor: because he is England's best batsman. That doesn't guarantee he'll be a great leader, said Geoffrey Boycott in *The Daily Telegraph*. Just look at Cook: far too conservative a captain, he failed to "trust his gut". Root mustn't make that same mistake; fortunately, he appears to favour a bolder, more aggressive approach. He'll have to cope with a heavy workload, said George Dobell on ESPNcricinfo. As a key batsman in all three formats, "the demands on his time and energy are already substantial". But such pressures haven't held back Root's international peers, said Vic Marks in *The Guardian*. On the contrary: the other three finest Test batsmen – India's Virat Kohli, Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Kane Williamson – have only improved their batting averages since becoming their country's captains. In the short term, at least, we can expect Root to get even better.

Commentary box

An English scoring drought

It was an alarming weekend for England fans, said Jack Skelton on BBC Sport online. In nine Premier League matches, just one goal was scored by an English player – and that came from a defender, Swansea's Alfie Mawson. One English striker after another "failed to find the net": Harry Kane "started but barely threatened"; Marcus Rashford only made a cameo appearance; Wayne Rooney and Daniel Sturridge were unused substitutes. With the exception of Kane, this has been a dire season for England strikers, said Matt Hughes in *The Times*. Rooney has only scored twice, Rashford three times. England's "great goalscoring drought" leaves the national team with a "big problem".



Spieth: "reclaimed the spotlight"

Golf's young guns

Golf's bright young things are "leaving veterans in the shade", says Derek Lawrenson in the *Daily Mail*. Six events into the year, the average age of a winner on the PGA Tour is 24; last year, by contrast, it was almost 33. The youngest of the year's winners is 22-year-old Jon Rahm; last month, 23-year-old Justin Thomas won two tournaments in a week. And this week another 23-year-old, Jordan Spieth, "reclaimed the spotlight". The Texan won the Pebble Beach Pro-Am – the ninth PGA title of his career, including his two majors. Only one golfer has won that many at Spieth's age since the Second World War: Tiger Woods. But after pulling out of two tournaments this month, Woods now "belongs to another time".

Sporting headlines

Rugby union In the Six Nations, France beat Scotland 22-16. C.J. Stander and Craig Gilroy both scored three tries in Ireland's 63-10 win over Italy. Leicester Tigers signed England fly-half George Ford from Bath.

Football Chelsea's lead at the top of the Premier League narrowed following their 1-1 draw at Burnley. Manchester City beat Bournemouth 2-0 to go second. Liverpool beat Tottenham 2-0.

Rugby league Super League champions Wigan started the new season by beating Salford 26-16. Catalans beat Warrington 20-12.



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PARTNERS YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW.



Pick of the week's correspondence

When robots take over

To The Daily Telegraph

I agree with Professor Trevor Harley that artificial intelligence has a good chance of taking over most of the jobs we do. However, a world in which machines do all the work is not necessarily one of mass unemployment and poverty.

With the efficiencies gained through automation and the almost total cut in labour costs, productivity will rocket, while the price of goods and services created by fully automated providers will be a fraction of what it is today.

Food could be grown, harvested, distributed and sold for almost nothing.

Unnecessary offices could be demolished and replaced with homes designed and assembled by machines. Government services such as the NHS would no longer be constrained by the cost of labour or the time it takes to train an employee. A Treasury buoyed by increases in tax receipts from an exponentially more productive private sector could easily afford to grant every person a statutory basic payment covering living expenses.

This is not a future in which people are unable to work, but one where people don't have to work.

Iwan Price-Evans, London

The reality of caring

To The Observer

Congratulations to Catherine Bennett for her article on the putative duty of children to care for their elderly parents. She quotes Jeremy Hunt's saying that "an elderly person at home is like a living golden treasure". No lofty exhortation better demonstrates the gulf between the soft-focus image of caring for an elderly relative and the grimy reality.

I cared for my mother, bed bound after a stroke, for six weeks in 1993 in the relatively un-austere age of Toryism under John Major. My mother was a strong, loving woman; we had been best friends. But our lives and our relationship, post-stroke, were anything but "golden".

I got help from council carers, which was probably lavish by today's standards but

An insufficient housing solution

To The Times

Part of the solution to the housing crisis is making better use of existing homes, as Alice Thomson suggests. So it was very disappointing that the housing White Paper was a complete damp squib on downsizing.

Compared with other countries, relatively few older homeowners downsize. One of the main barriers is the lack of attractive housing options and the cost of moving. The Government should encourage developers and planners to build smaller, well-located properties that downsizers want to purchase as "last-time buyers". Exemptions on stamp duty would also help.

Every move by an older homeowner leads to three further moves on the housing ladder, so the Government would soon recoup any stamp duty, and more family-sized homes would be released for younger people.

Stephen Burke, director, United for All Ages

To The Guardian

According to its White Paper, our Government now claims the housing market is "broken". This is mystifying: demand has greatly exceeded supply; prices have risen rapidly – is this not precisely what markets are expected to do? Can we hope that instead it is the previously unshakeable conservative belief in utility of markets that might be broken? Probably not.

Professor Robert Peveler, University of Southampton

I still suffered severe sleep deprivation, stress and physical exhaustion. I was expected to lift my mother from her bed on to a commode, a task usually undertaken by two paid carers. Twice, my mother slipped onto the floor mid-lift, and I had to call an ambulance. I was told that any future call-outs would set us back £80. Where carers, many of whom have given up work, would find that money is beyond me. In the end, I gave in to my mother's pleas and "put" her in a nursing home, where she remained, well cared for, for another five years. People like the Health Secretary should trudge a mile in a carer's shoes before making their pronouncements.

Vera Lustig, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

Old-school police

To The Daily Telegraph

While the constables of York Minster may be part of the oldest constabulary in the world, that does not make them the oldest police force.

The Thames River Police, founded by the West India Committee in 1798 to protect trade ships from the West Indies, is recognised by Unesco as the world's oldest continuously serving police

force. It was based on the same ideas of preventive policing as the Metropolitan Police would be 30 years later, making it the first modern police force.

It exists today as the Metropolitan Police's Marine Policing Unit.

David Wells, London SW1

A shameful episode

To The Guardian

I would like to quote the words of Aneurin Bevan, who in 1948 said nothing could eradicate from his heart a deep burning hatred of the Tory party: "So far as I am concerned they are lower than vermin." I feel like echoing those words owing to their utterly disgraceful slamming of our doors to the thousands of child refugees they promised to take in. How dare they throw the responsibility onto local councils instead of even trying to find out how many families would be willing to take a child, as was done at the time of the Kindertransport. I personally know at least five families who would take a child. Old as I am, I would take one myself rather than let them rot in camps around Europe, a prey to every peril. Shame on us, and shame

on our Government.

Lynne Reid Banks, Shepperton, Surrey

In expert hands

To The Daily Telegraph

Of the people complaining about the length of time patients wait on trolleys in hospital, one wonders how many have experienced the problem. Over the past year I have arrived in hospital three times as a result of pneumonia and/or pleurisy, and have had to wait well over four hours before being allocated a bed. On one occasion, I was transferred between hospitals at 1am, after more than 12 hours of waiting.

Complaint was the last thing on my mind. My feeling was one of relief: I was surrounded by dedicated medical staff. If I became more unwell, I only had to wave or shout and help would be at hand.

Geoff Watts, Tonbridge, Kent

Apple update

To The Times

I note that Apple will shortly be moving into its new flagship Apple Campus 2. May I suggest that the company waits for the forthcoming Apple Campus 3, which will offer a raft of bug fixes and other performance improvements.

Simon Oliver, Birmingham

Forgettable prose

To The Financial Times

There is another reason paper is making a comeback. Six months or so after reading an ebook I find it almost impossible to remember anything about it. Not so a paper book – and this is not an age thing – the young find this too.

H. Broune, Leyburn, N Yorks



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Ghibli

Official fuel consumption figures for Maserati Ghibli MY17 range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 20.5 (13.8) – 36.7 (7.7), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) – 57.6 (4.9), Combined 29.4 (9.6) – 47.9 (5.9). CO₂ emissions 223 – 158 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures are based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown is a Maserati Ghibli Diesel MY17 at £52,725 On The Road including optional mica paint at £660 and 20 inch machine polished Urano alloy wheels at £2,205.

Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

Deaths of the Poets

by Paul Farley and Michael Symmons Roberts

Jonathan Cape 416pp £14.99

The Week Bookshop £12.99

"Being a published poet is more dangerous than being a deep-sea diver," claimed the journal *Death Studies* in 2003. In their new book, Paul Farley and Michael Symmons Roberts – both poets themselves – interrogate the idea, inherited from the Romantics, that the life of a poet is uniquely dangerous. They visit the "deathplaces" of around 30 poets, many of whom died young, and they ponder whether "great poems come at a heavy – ultimately fatal – price". It's an approach that sees them visit Hull (Philip Larkin's deathplace) one day and Vienna (where W.H. Auden died in his hotel room) the next. In Minneapolis, they cross the bridge from which John Berryman jumped in 1972. In Massachusetts, they visit the house where Anne Sexton asphyxiated herself in 1974. There's an "obvious difficulty" with this methodology, said Nicholas Roe in the *Literary Review*: deathplaces don't necessarily tell you much about "poets' lives" or the "work that flowed from them". Accept this limitation, however, and *Deaths of the Poets* is a "compelling" read.



Henry Wallis's *The Death of Chatterton* (1856)

I disagree, said Roger Lewis in *The Times*: this must be one of the "most tasteless volumes of lit crit ever perpetrated". The authors' "merry wheeze" may have justified them "clocking up air miles", but the result is incoherent and largely pointless. If you want to know the shop in Newton Abbot where Stevie Smith bought her Bounty bars, or what Auden's VW Beetle looked like, then "Farley and Symmons Roberts are the chaps to find out for you". But who cares? This book of "ghoulish tourism" confirms my suspicion that academics – both men are professors of poetry – "possess far too much paid free time". The "breezy" style is also a drawback, said Andrew Motion in *The Spectator*. So concerned are Farley and Symmons Roberts to avoid seeming gloomy, they adopt a tone of "self-mocking jauntness". But you need "Geoff Dyer-like dexterity" to pull this off. Much of the time, they merely sound "flip".

Well, I found this book "terrifically entertaining", said Blake Morrison in *The Guardian*. It's "wide-ranging", "thoughtful" and "funny". Writers rarely write in the first-person plural, but Farley and Symmons Roberts make the "we" sound "natural". Nor does their "clowning" detract from the "seriousness" of their quest. True, they never satisfactorily answer their starting question (in fact, they end up disagreeing about how "doomed" poets really are). But this hardly matters. "The evidence is there, in the stories of 30 or more poets, for the reader to decide."

The Holocaust: A New History

by Laurence Rees

Viking 528pp £25

The Week Bookshop £22 (incl. p&p)

The Holocaust has been "the subject of countless books by celebrated academics", said Saul David in *The Daily Telegraph*. But in this "brilliant" work, Laurence Rees, a former BBC head of history, has achieved something "unique", which is to synthesise the latest scholarly research with first-hand testimony from both survivors and perpetrators. The result, though not for the fainthearted, is "shocking and heart-rending". On the question of how the Shoah happened, Rees belongs to the "functionalist" rather than "intentionalist" school. Although Hitler was always a rabid anti-Semite, it wasn't originally his plan to murder the Jews; instead, he hoped that they could be "forced to emigrate". Only when circumstances made this impossible did he move to more extreme positions, and even then the "Final Solution" was more a last-ditch improvisation than a carefully thought-through strategy. These are not novel conclusions, said Nikolaus Wachsmann in *The Guardian*. The historical consensus now leans towards "functionalism". What distinguishes Rees' book is his ability to "tell a complex story with compassion and clarity, without sacrificing all nuances".

Rees has been "badly served" by his publishers, who describe this as "the first authoritative and accessible account of the Holocaust in more than three decades", said Oliver Kamm in *The Times*. The claim is "so erroneous as to be in poor taste". That aside, this is a "worthy addition to the literature". Why so many ordinary people in Germany and throughout occupied Europe turned a blind eye to what was happening will always be a "harrowing enigma". But Rees provides an "exemplary account of how the greatest crime in modern history came about".



Auschwitz-Birkenau

Novel of the week

Moonglow

by Michael Chabon

Fourth Estate 448pp £18.99

The Week Bookshop £13.99

At a time when we aren't "supposed to value expertise", Michael Chabon's *Moonglow* is "terrifically, sometimes even helplessly, expert", said Stig Abell in *The Times*. A novel dressed up as a family memoir, it purports to be about Chabon's grandfather, a retired rocket engineer whose life has been full of "misadventure". Whether or not the story is a "pack of lies" is unclear, but in any event, that's the "least interesting thing" about it. *Moonglow* is best seen as a "celebration of remembering" by a writer in "full command" of his powers.

I hated Chabon's last novel, *Telegraph Avenue*, but this marks a return to form, said Alex Preston in *The Observer*. Rivalling earlier masterpieces, such as *Wonder Boys* and *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, it is "full of the kind of prose that made me love Chabon in the first place". I admired this novel, without being enraptured, said Philip Hensher in *The Guardian*. Although a "handsome piece of work", it lacks the "raucousness" of Chabon's best novels. He seems to be aiming for seriousness, but the truth is "sobriety doesn't really suit him".

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Theatre

**The House of
Bernarda Alba**

Playwright:
Federico García Lorca
Director: Jenny Sealey

Royal Exchange Theatre,
St Ann's Square,
Manchester
(0161-833 9833)
Until 25 February

Running time:
2hrs 10mins
(including interval)

★★★

Lorca's last play (written two months before he was shot by fascist militiamen) is an intriguing study of domestic tyranny, said Ann Treneman in *The Times*. New widow Bernarda Alba makes Joan Crawford in *Mommie Dearest* look lovingly maternal, and Kathryn Hunter is utterly convincing as the grieving matriarch: "imperious, cruel, controlling but, also, someone who believes it is her duty to shield her daughters from the sex and shenanigans of the world". Jenny Sealey's "extraordinary" revival is a co-production with Graeae Theatre, which promotes the work of deaf and disabled actors. British Sign Language and captions are integrated throughout – and even if this made for a slow pace at times, overall it enhanced the play, making it easier to follow and highlighted the cruelty.

The casting of so many deaf and disabled performers strikingly illuminates the piece's themes, said Ian Shuttleworth in the FT. Lorca's play is principally a meditation on the tortuous difficulties of asserting one's own identity as a powerless woman in such a constricting culture as 1930s Spain (it is probably also a metaphor for Lorca's own trials as a gay man). It's a timely moment to revive this play, which was



Hunter: "mesmerising"

conceived as an assault on the right-wing extremism spreading through 1930s Europe, said Alfred Hickling in *The Guardian*. But the most "compelling reason for seeing it is to witness Hunter taking absolute command of a role" she was born to play. At times she is absolutely vicious, seizing an offending lipstick and smearing it across a daughter's cheeks and forehead. Yet her "cruelty is offset by fleeting gestures of affection", suggesting that "far from failing to love her daughters, Bernarda loves them too well". Hunter is "magnetic and mesmerising" in the part, agreed Paul Valley in *The Independent*. Overall, though, there is too little tension, "heat and sexuality" in Sealey's production, and no sense of "simmering violence". For me, this meant that the evening was less than the sum of its parts.

The week's other opening

The Pitchfork Disney, Shoreditch Town Hall, London EC1 (020-7739 6176)

This revival of Philip Ridley's 1991 slice of "East End Gothic" boasts intense performances from its young cast and is "not to be missed by connoisseurs of theatre in creaky old town-hall basements" (*Sunday Times*).

Opera

**Adriana
Lecouvreur**

Composer: Francesco Cilea
Director: David McVicar
Conductor: Daniel Oren

Royal Opera House,
Covent Garden,
London WC2
(020-7304 4000)
Until 2 March

Running time:
3hrs 25mins
(including two intervals)

★★★

Artifice and realism "dance a complicated pas de deux in this frothy 1902 fantasy of love and death" in the theatres and palaces of ancien régime Paris, said Anna Picard in *The Times*. There is something irresistible about its ornate "tulle and seed-pearl" score. But the plot – even by operatic standards – is hard to credit. The story is driven by a love triangle between Adriana, a celebrated actress at the Comédie-Française, Maurizio, a feckless pretender to the throne of Poland, and Maurizio's jealous ex-lover, the Princesse de Bouillon. But there are any number of distractions, involving "backstage flirtations, a faux-baroque ballet and a sotto voce catfight".

In short, the whole thing is hard to take seriously, said Hannah Nepil in the FT. So all credit to the director, David McVicar, for pulling it off. His production, revived for the first time since its 2010 premiere, "buys wholeheartedly into the opera's flamboyance". The opulent set "teems with period detail: the third-act ballet, in particular, is eye-wateringly lavish". And the star, Angela Gheorghiu – in an opera that only works as a star vehicle – shines brightly in a performance of "freshness and charm". The great Romanian soprano, whose fans were out in vocal force on opening night,



Gheorghiu (left) "shines brightly"

sings the love duets as exquisitely as she did in 2010, and "if her voice occasionally loses focus in the dramatic confrontations, she makes up for it by sheer force of personality".

Alas, I can't agree, said Rupert Christiansen in *The Daily Telegraph*. I feel Gheorghiu is showing signs of waning vocal power aged 51, and is one of the weakest links. She is certainly outshone by "flashy newcomer" Ksenia Dudnikova, as the princess, and the "truly great" Gerald Finley as the impresario Michonnet. Best of all, said Fiona Maddocks in *The Observer*, was the American tenor Brian Jagde, who "stole the show" as the hero, Maurizio. In 2010, Jonas Kaufmann took the role, and now he's a global star with his own residency this month at the Barbican. "So keep your ears on Jagde."

CD of the week

Haydn: String Quartets Opp 54 & 55

Hyperion £10.50

The virtuosic London Haydn Quartet revel in the "brilliance and originality" of these six quartets. The "edgy sound of period instruments may not appeal to all", but the ebullience of the performances surely will (FT).

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20th Century Women

Dir: Mike Mills
1hr 59mins (15)

Intelligent ensemble drama with Annette Bening

★★★

"There are things in life that passeth all understanding: bubble tea, aviation, and how Annette Bening failed to get an Oscar nomination for her career-best work in *20th Century Women*," said Tim Robey in *The Daily Telegraph*. As Dorothea, a 55-year-old single mother struggling to bring up her son, Jamie (Lucas Jade Zumann), in 1970s California, she is a near-perfect blend of resilience and vulnerability in this finely nuanced ensemble drama. Greta Gerwig provides strong support as the liberated twentysomething lodger Dorothea recruits to help usher her boy into adulthood, said Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian*. Yet overall I found *20th Century Women* self-satisfied, annoyingly unfocused and, worst of all, not terribly funny. Mike Mills' "quirky" directorial style takes a bit of getting used to, said Brian Viner in the *Daily Mail*. Yet once you do, the movie is a delight. *20th Century Women* is that rare thing, a "fabulous film as framed by the older female perspective", said Deborah Ross in *The Spectator*. Don't miss it, because you'll have a long wait "for the next one to come along".



The Lego Batman Movie

Dir: Chris McKay
1hr 44mins (U)

A sophisticated pastiche of superhero films

★★★★

The Lego Movie was one of the surprise hits of 2014, and this animated spin-off sequel turns out to be just as much fun, said Tom Huddleston in *Time Out*. A "ferociously paced" pastiche of blockbuster superhero movies, the film recasts Batman (given fine gravelly voice by Will Arnett) as a lonely bachelor reduced to watching romantic comedies and eating lobster thermidor for one in his Gothic mansion. When he inadvertently adopts Robin, a good-natured orphan (Michael Cera), he finds himself with new responsibilities, but also new support, just as the villainous Joker plots to take over Gotham City with an army of baddies. The film's strongest suit is its tremendously witty script and often hilarious gags, said Geoffrey Macnab in *The Independent*. I loved the Joker's dismay that Batman refuses to commit to an exclusive enmity. ("I like to fight around," the latter growls.) Make no mistake, this is a "fantastically funny and highly sophisticated pop culture adventure" for all the family, said Peter Bradshaw in *The Guardian*. It leaves one wondering why "non-Lego movies" can't be this good.



Fences

Dir: Denzel Washington
2hrs 19mins (12A)

Searing adaptation of August Wilson's play

★★★

August Wilson's Pulitzer-winning 1983 play *Fences* is often seen as "a black dramatist's rejoinder to Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*", said Tim Robey in *The Daily Telegraph*. And certainly its protagonist, Troy Maxson, "could teach even Willy Loman a thing or two about failure". Played by Denzel Washington in this "demanding" cinematic adaptation, Troy is an aggrieved rubbish collector who thinks he could have made it as a baseball player if he hadn't been black. Moving from mellifluous self-mythologising to sadistic bullying at the flick of a switch, he takes out his frustrations on his long-suffering wife Rose (Viola Davis) and love-starved son Cory (Jovan Adepo). Washington reprises a performance that won him plaudits on Broadway, said Joshua Rothkopf in *Time Out*. Yet on screen it seems overblown. Davis, by contrast, nails her turn as the beaten-down Rose. Sure, *Fences* is stagey, but that just means no frills or flights of fancy to distract from the searing dialogue, said Terri White in *Empire*. "Yes, you've got to work hard for this film, but by god, it's worth the graft."



Fifty Shades Darker

Dir: James Foley
1hr 58mins (18)

Several shades lighter, actually

★

The clue is in the title. *Fifty Shades Darker* aims to go deeper and darker than its glossy sadomasochistic predecessor, *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Yet the truth is this sequel – based, like the first film, on a bestselling book by E.L. James – is so pallid, you'd "have to be a masochist" to watch it, said Ellie Walker-Arnott in *Time Out*. The story starts with feisty Ana (Dakota Johnson) estranged from brooding Christian (Jamie Dornan). But the latter is determined to win her back, so he buys the publishing house where she works. Will she return with him to his Red Room of Pain? What do you reckon? The highlight of this "silly" film is meeting Elena, the older woman who taught Christian all about S&M, said Brian Viner in the *Daily Mail*. She is played by Kim Basinger, who "has the decency to look faintly embarrassed". Will I sound like a "ravaging pervert" if I say the sex scenes are tame, asked Robbie Collin in *The Daily Telegraph*. There's the odd bit of light spanking, but overall this supposed "filth-fest" comes on more like "a flustered PG". It doesn't satisfy the head, the heart, or any other part of the body.



Exhibition of the week **David Hockney**

Tate Britain, London SW1 (020-7887 8888, www.tate.org.uk). Until 29 May

We've seen a "heck of a lot" of David Hockney of late, said Rachel Campbell-Johnston in *The Times*. The Yorkshire-born artist, who turns 80 in July, has in recent years staged two major shows at the Royal Academy, several smaller commercial exhibitions and an "assortment of subsidiary projects" – including a commission to create a stained-glass window for Westminster Abbey and a recent redesign of The Sun's logo. But of all of them, it is this "huge" new Hockney retrospective at Tate Britain that looks set to make the "biggest splash". The show charts Hockney's career from his days as an art student in Bradford, to early success in London, to his 1964 move to California, before bringing us right up to the present day. It is a "compilation of golden greats", featuring most of Hockney's best-loved works as well as a strong selection of lesser-known canvases. If you want to understand why Hockney is "our most famous living artist", then "this show will explain".

The first few rooms of the exhibition are "exemplary", said Ben Luke in the *London Evening Standard*. The "exhilarating" canvases he produced in London in the early 1960s "courageously" explored themes of gay desire when homosexuality was still illegal in Britain. "Daring" works like



Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures) (1972)

1962's *Cleaning Teeth, Early Evening* (10PM) W11 fuse the "poetic gloom of postwar British art" with the "visceral intensity" of Picasso. Elsewhere, paintings made after Hockney's move to California, like the famous *A Bigger Splash* (1967) and *Sunbather* (1966), "look as good as ever". Better still is an "electrifying grouping" of double portraits, including a 1968 likeness of Hockney's friends Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy. What a shame, then, that the second half of the show is "as crushingly awful as the first is magnificent".

It proves that Hockney has been in "sharp decline" as an artist for many years, and reaches a nadir in the final room with some "uniformly awful" drawings the artist created on his iPad.

The critical consensus on Hockney nowadays is "early, good; late, bad", said Mark Hudson in *The Daily Telegraph*. But it hasn't quite been "downhill all the way" since the 1970s. For instance, *The Arrival of Spring*, a series of 25 charcoal drawings exploring the effects of light and shade in Yorkshire woodland, are works of "complete integrity" and "formidable skill". Hockney may not be the "great artist" many claim him to be, but he is a "great cultural figure" – and this "admirably lucid, well-structured" retrospective is a show that "demands to be seen".

Where to buy...

The Week reviews an exhibition in a private gallery

Modern British Women

at The Fine Art Society

In recent years, there has been a major renewal of interest in female British artists working in the first half of the 20th century. Where previously they had been overlooked, or at the very best played second fiddle to their male contemporaries, artists such as Prunella Clough, Elisabeth Frink and Gillian Ayres are now at long last being elevated to the status they always deserved. All three are featured in this interesting selection of paintings, drawings and sculptures created between 1910 and 2006, alongside a number of equally sidelined artists. Highlights include Dora Carrington's deadpan 1924 portrait of her housemaid; a kinetic, faintly nautical abstract work by Ayres; and a truly great tapestry of a reclining horse by



Carrington's Annie (c.1924)

Frink. Best of the lot, though, is a lithograph of a crane created by Clough in 1952. In her hands, the heavy industry of postwar reconstruction becomes a thrilling jumble of abstract shape and colour. Prices from £10,000 to £150,000.

148 New Bond Street, London W1 (020-7629 5116). Until 28 February.

Gauguin in the South Pacific

Paul Gauguin's years in the South Pacific have long been shrouded in myth, said *The Times*. But now "photographic proof" of his "pleasure-seeking lifestyle" there may have emerged.



Two photos purportedly showing images of the French artist "fondling" Tahitian women have been unearthed by the Munich art dealer Daniel Blau. One apparently shows Gauguin kissing a local woman and embracing another (pictured); the second shows him leaning on a third woman, believed to be his mistress Pahura – the model for some of his most famous paintings. In 1891, Gauguin, a former stockbroker, left his family in Paris for Tahiti, where he had a number of very young wives and mistresses. He was visited there by his friend Jules Agostini, who is thought to have taken the photos. The pictures were bought recently at an auction in Normandy. The art historian Caroline Boyle-Turner, an expert on Gauguin, said that Blau's evidence that they indeed depict the artist was "very convincing".

© ART GALLERY NEW SOUTH WALES, JENNI CARTER; PHOTO BY JULES AGOSTINI © DANIEL BLAU, MUNICH



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Best books... James Brown

Journalist and broadcaster James Brown, who founded *Loaded* and was editor-in-chief of *GQ*, picks five of his favourite books. His memoir about amateur football, *Above Head Height: A Five-a-Side Life*, is published by *Quercus* at £16.99

Dispatches by Michael Herr, 1977 (Picador £9.99). I've just reread this engrossing account of Herr's time in Vietnam: such strangely beautiful and inspiring writing about something as brutal and grotesque as people ground up by the machinery of modern warfare.

The Long Goodbye by Raymond Chandler, 1953 (Penguin £8.99). The greatest American novel ever written with a hangover. You can feel the alcoholic acceptance of the disappointments of life seeping from the pages as Philip Marlowe moves through a Los Angeles of sick men, blunt cops and heart-plundering women, propelled by the illusive lure of a lost friendship.

The Blinder by Barry Hines, 1966 (out of print). This semi-autobiographical football novel appeared before *A Kestrel for a Knave* and the subsequent film, *Kes*, made Barry Hines famous. Lennie Hawk is the precocious sixth-form striker upon whom a northern town pin their hopes for success. It begins with our hero, late for registration, drying his knees on the school radiators.

Keeping On Keeping On by Alan Bennett, 2016 (Faber/Profile £25). They didn't tell us at Lawnswood School, Leeds, that Bennett had been there before us. So it's been an unexpected pleasure to find such a great writer recounting

life in the same streets where I grew up. I can sink into his love of the Yorkshire Dales, his forthright political observations and his sharp eye for a footballing personality (really), in his diaries and memoirs, for hours.

The New Journalism edited by Tom Wolfe & E.W. Johnson, 1973 (Picador £14.99). When my mates finished A levels and went to university, I started a fanzine and read as much Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson and George Plimpton as I could find on my dad's bookshelves: two years later, I was a staff writer on the *NME*. This is the best education in one volume a features writer can have.

Titles in print are available from The Week bookshop on 0843-060 0020. For out-of-print books visit www.bibliofind.co.uk

The Week's guide to what's worth seeing and reading

Showing now

Travesties at the Apollo Theatre, London W1 (0330-333 4809). Patrick Marber's acclaimed revival of Tom Stoppard's 1974 comedy has transferred to the West End. Tom Hollander reprises his role as a name-dropping diplomat in what is a "life-enhancing play that brims with intellectual gaiety" (*Guardian*). Ends 29 April.

Degas to Picasso at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (01865-278112). Exhibition looking at the rise of modernism in France through works by artists including Degas, Picasso and Manet, from a collection that has never been shown before in the UK. Ends 7 May.

Book now

Sally Cookson's "original, engaging and unexpectedly funny" adaptation of **Jane Eyre** was a hit in Bristol and at the National, and is now going on tour (*Sunday Telegraph*). 8-15 April at The Lowry, Salford, and then on. See www.nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Casanova, Kenneth Tindall's first full-length work for Northern Ballet, explores the Venetian



Northern Ballet's *Casanova*

womaniser's scandalous life. The ballet premieres on 11 March at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, before touring around the UK (see www.northernballet.com).

Just out in paperback

The Cultural Revolution by Frank Dikotter (Bloomsbury £10.99). The final book of Dikotter's "magnificent" trilogy documents Mao's central role in the "seismic" upheaval that almost ruined China (*Sunday Times*).

Television

Programmes

SS-GB Sam Riley and Kate Bosworth star in this five-part thriller, based on Len Deighton's novel about life in Nazi-occupied Britain. Sun 19 Feb, BBC1 9pm (60mins).

The Royal House of Windsor Six-part series charting the Royal Family's fight for survival over the past 100 years. Based on new evidence from archives around the world and on the Queen's own papers. Wed 22 Feb, C4 9pm (60mins).

The Swingers Dutch thriller about a grieving couple who move to the suburbs and become increasingly friendly with their next-door neighbours, with unhappy consequences. Thur 23 Feb, C4 10pm (60mins).

Madame Tussaud: A Legend in Wax Documentary telling the story of the eponymous wax sculptor. After narrowly avoiding execution in the French Revolution, she sailed with her son to England in 1802, and set up a business that lives on to this day. Thur 23 Feb, BBC4 9pm (60mins).

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Nigel Farage The former UKIP leader talks about his brushes with death, and his friendship with Donald Trump. Fri 24 Feb, ITV1 9pm (60mins).

Films

Phoenix (2014) Compelling drama about a Jewish singer (Nina Hoss) who after surviving Auschwitz, returns to Berlin for reconstructive surgery and revenge. Sun 19 Feb, BBC4 11pm (95mins).

Amour (2012) Michael Haneke's masterful but harrowing tale of old age. With Emmanuelle Riva. Sun 19 Feb, Film4 1am (160mins).

Coming up for sale

The **Affordable Art Fair** returns to Battersea Park, with a mix of contemporary painting, prints, sculpture and photography, priced from £100 to £6,000. Readers will receive half-price tickets (excluding the charity private view and Thursday late view), when booking online with the code WEEKART. 9-12 March, Battersea Evolution, London SW11 (www.affordableartfair.com).

The Archers: what happened last week

Helen's worried about Henry after he comes into her room in the night asking when Daddy is coming back. Harrison calls round to Bridge Farm – the police have traced Rob's passport and found he took a flight to Minneapolis. If Rob returns, he'll be on their radar. Helen is relieved. Lilian and Justin enjoy waking up together in the Dower House. Lilian nips out – in her fur and slippers – to grab her phone from the car and bumps into Eddie. Later, Lilian warns Eddie about spreading rumours. Clarrie lets slip to Susan about an early morning visitor to the Dower House, but says Eddie has sworn her to secrecy. Kenton warns Jennifer there's been gossip in the pub about Lilian and Justin. To Tom's relief, Peggy approves of Kirsty's pregnancy and gives her a generous cheque. Peggy chats with Henry and finds out Rob told him that he's not his real daddy. Helen realises this is why he's been so upset. Justin is due to take Miranda, Brian and Jennifer to a dinner dance in Felpersham. Miranda cancels, so he takes Lilian instead. This makes Jennifer feel awkward, as it looks like she's condoning the affair. Lynda, who's there with Robert, is surprised to see Justin and Lilian on the dance floor.

Impressive Tudor houses



▲ **Kent:** Harts House, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone. A Grade II* hall house with 16th century origins, set in a 2-acre plot with its own lake. Master suite with dressing room, 5 further beds, 2 baths, 2 WCs, kitchen, 3 receps, study, cellar, hall, 3 garages, formal gardens. £1.5m; Fine & Country (01732-222272).



▲ **Essex:** Hill Place, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon. This Grade II house dates back to the 16th century or earlier, with 17th century and later alterations. Planning and listing building consent have been granted for a substantial 2-storey extension. Master suite, 3 further beds, family bath, breakfast/kitchen, 3 receps, cloakroom, double garage with office and gym, garden, 0.85 acres. Further land, stables and barn may be available by separate negotiation. £1.1m Savills (01245-293233).



► **Kent:** The Old Canonry, Wingham. A Grade I house of considerable architectural importance, this is one of the oldest inhabited houses in the country, believed to date from the 15th century. 4 beds, 3 baths, kitchen, 2 receps, family room/study, cellar, outbuilding with office and utility, garden, garage, parking. £695,000; Strutt & Parker (01227-451123).





◀ **Norfolk:** East Barsham Manor, East Barsham. A Grade I Tudor country house, built between 1520 and 1530 for Sir Henry Fermor, with polygonal buttresses, ornate brickwork and heraldic decoration. The house is steeped in history and it's said that Henry VIII stayed at East Barsham and walked barefoot to the shrine at nearby Walsingham. 6 beds, 3 baths, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, vaulted hall, great hall, 3 further receps, library, study, nursery, utility, cloakroom, minstrel gallery, tower room/bed 7, Tudor gate house, 3-bed garden cottage, garaging, store room, workshop, formal gardens and grounds, 4.6 acres. £3m; Savills (01603-229229).



◀ **Surrey:** Bramshott Manor, Bramshott. One of the oldest continually inhabited homes in the country, this Grade II* manor has parts dating back to the 13th century, and historic features including moulded windows, an oak staircase and a 16th century fireplace. 5 beds, 3 baths, kitchen, 3 receps, utility, WC, galleried landing, cellar, double garage with studio above, barn, workshop, mature grounds, 5 acres. £1.85m; Knight Frank (01428-770560).



▲ **Shropshire:** Shear Farm, Nash, Ludlow. Dating from the 15th century, this elevated farmhouse has fine views over its own land. 5 beds, 4 baths, kitchen/dining room, 2 receps, hall, study, utility, cloakroom, cellar, triple garage, barns, stable blocks, paddocks, 33.45 acres. £1.5m; Andrew Grant (01905-734735).



▲ **Gloucestershire:** Thatched Cottage, Saul. A pretty detached Tudor cottage, full of character and original features, with a large garden and lake views. Master suite, 2 further beds, family bath, breakfast/kitchen, 2 receps, cloakroom, landscaped gardens, parking, garage. OIEO £400,000; Murrays (01453-755552).



Bruce Palling,
our editor for
The Week Wines

The Week Wines

Discover something new with Corney & Barrow,
who specialise in carefully selected, honestly priced wines.

My first encounter with Corney & Barrow, the City wine merchants, was nearly 40 years ago, and they represent many prestigious producers. In the intervening years I've learnt more about wine from their marathon lunches than from any other single source. Corney & Barrow still provide unparalleled service for those who adore the finest wines, but also excel at the more affordable level too – they are always on the lookout for the very best Malbec from Argentina or Grüner Veltliner from Austria, and offer an unsurpassed range of their own-label wines. My selection below is available either as a pair of each in a mixed case, or as whole cases. As usual, the offer includes free delivery and these prices cannot be found elsewhere.



Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso Cecilia Beretta 2014 If you say Valpolicella, most people assume you are talking about the quality equivalent of Italian Beaujolais. When it comes to Valpolicella Superiore Ripasso, nothing could be further from the truth. This wine is known as a “baby Amarone”, as it is refermented with the addition of Amarone grape skins – which contributes to its intensity and lift. This is not a complex wine, but it gives an extraordinary amount of pleasure. Its structure can complement any robust meat dish or even something less challenging, such as poultry or pasta.



Eradus Pinot Noir, Awatere Valley, Marlborough, New Zealand 2015 New Zealand's Pinot Noirs have come of age and shed their image of being unsophisticated copies of red Burgundy. They are still easily identifiable, but for all the right reasons, as there is an exuberance and follow-through of fruit, laced with minerality. The family-run Eradus estate's offering has pleasant “forest floor” notes, with a fine balance between freshness and dark fruit. Drinking now, but will evolve.



Bourgogne Pinot Noir Vieilles Vignes, Domaine Gilles Jourdan, Burgundy, France 2013 I have been an enthusiast of Gilles Jourdan's simple but pure pinots since the great 2005 vintage. Tucked away in the south of the Côte de Beaune, in the village of Corgoloin, Jourdan devotes himself entirely to his three village Burgundies, with no other distractions from more famous locations. They are made for early drinking but remarkably, his 1959 vintage wines are still in perfect condition.



Domaine du Nozay Sancerre 2015 This classic Sancerre almost qualifies as a yardstick of what can be achieved with the Sauvignon Blanc grape in the Loire Valley. It is the polar opposite of the New Zealand take on this grape, which can be overwhelmingly floral. The superb 2015 vintage adds another layer of depth to this

wine, which cries out for a white fish such as seabass or turbot, though, because of its perfume and freshness, it can easily be drunk without any accompanying food. A perfect introduction to Loire whites.



Macon-Solutre Maison Auvigue 2015 With the ever increasing cost of white Burgundy, the Mâconnais is growing in importance for the production of good value Chardonnay. This vineyard is surrounded by Pouilly-Fuissé (the most renowned Mâconnais wines) and shares a certain similarity to its illustrious neighbours – an enchanting crispness and underlying ripeness. Brothers Jean-Pierre and Michel Auvigue work with local growers and have long-term contracts to ensure a consistency of style. An honest village wine.



Pazo La Maza Albariño Adegas Galegas 2015 The Albariño grape has emerged as one of the most popular Spanish white varieties, and is the grape of choice for those looking for something between Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. This one has wonderful aromatics and a peach-like undertone, yet with enough citrus acidity to make it refreshing. The vineyard is owned by Pepe Rodríguez, known as the father of modern Albariños, who is responsible for making Rías Baixas in Galicia – the source of the very best Albariños in Spain. Perfect with any shellfish.

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What the experts recommend

El Pastor 6-7a Stoney Street, London SE1
(www.tacoselpastor.co.uk)

This attractive and cheerily informal “taqueria”, set in a double-height railway arch on the edge of Borough Market, is part of a mini-wave of outstanding openings that are transforming our understanding of Mexican food, says Tim Hayward in the FT. El Pastor’s superb tortillas, for example – made daily from water and maize that has been soaked in a strong alkali to remove the grain’s tough skin – are so distant from the “leathery corn ‘wraps’” we Brits are used to that they could be an entirely different food. The taco *al pastor* is delicious and the pork “almost unbelievably juicy”. The *pastor de pescado* (fish taco) is, if anything, even better: socking great chunks of stone bass, with caramelised onions and a sparkling pineapple and habanero salsa. *Carnitas* are “richly porcine”. And a dessert of fresh pineapple served in chilli and mint syrup with a sharp citrus granita topping is “shockingly good”. *Tacos start from £2.50, and quesadillas from £4.50.*



El Pastor: “cheerily informal”

Parker Bowles in The Mail on Sunday. And while I raised a gentle eyebrow at some of the musical accompaniment to our meal (at one point, we were subjected to the “big-haired, cowboy-booted yearning” of Mr. Mister’s 1985 hit *Broken Wings*), I delighted in the “unpretentiously confident” food. Monkfish cheeks were perfectly cooked and served with a nicely spiced curry sauce and charred cauliflower. A generous hunk of lamb rump, perfectly pink, came with a mellow caper sauce and was flanked by a “magnificent” shepherd’s pie croquette and rich, sticky gravy – the “sort that makes you want to lick the plate clean”. The only “bum note” was some

very dense pastry on a *Paris-Brest*. In every other respect, “1980s rock’s loss is gastronomy’s gain”.

Three-course lunch, £25 a head, plus drinks and service.

Mei Dim 45-47 Faulkner Street, Manchester (0161-236 6868)

I’d give this Chinese basement canteen only one out of ten for atmosphere, says Marina O’Loughlin in The Guardian. The clamour is deafening, and the best that can be said for the service is that it provides nostalgic diners with an “evocation of what Chinatowns used to be like before businesses realised that we wussy Brits were intimidated by blatant rudeness”. But judged on value for money, I would award it a rare “10/10”. Four of us left this place beaming, “stuffed as comprehensively as fried dough *cheung fun*” – and only £60 poorer. The key to a good meal here, though, is to opt for the dim sum rather than the (somewhat hit-and-miss) regular dishes. *Xiao long bao* (Shanghai soup dumplings) were “little belters”: almost translucent, the pork mince humming with ginger and garlic, the intense broth “whispering of many bones”. Baked char siu pastries were “super-short with lard”, the roast pork inside lean and sweet. And long, mild chillies are fantastic stuffed with squid and prawn, and deep-fried. “£10-£15 a head, plus, er, service.”

The West House 28 High Street, Biddenden, Kent (01580-291341)

The chef-owner at this charming Kent restaurant, Graham Garrett, was a drummer in the 1980s rock bands Dumb Blondes and Ya Ya (“nope, me neither”) before training under the likes of Nico Ladenis and Richard Corrigan, says Tom

Recipe of the week: Turkish delight and pistachio cheesecake

We put this cake (which we call Mohsen’s cheesecake, after an uncle who’s a consummate chef) in our patisserie counter and it sold out within the hour, says Sally Butcher of Persepolis, in southeast London. That’s partly because it’s so pretty, and partly because of “nut snobbery” – really, it’s a thing. Pistachios are seen as the king of the nut world and our customers swoon for them

Serves 6-8 (not that you’ll want to share)

For the base: 300g crushed biscuits – those unwanted ones left at the bottom of the cookie jar will do 150g butter, melted

For the cheesy bit: 400g creamed labneh (or cream cheese) 100g caster (superfine) sugar 200g ground nibbed pistachios

1 level tsp ground cardamom 2 eggs, whisked 175ml double (heavy) cream 4 tbsps rose water 200g rose Turkish delight, finely diced

For the topping: 100g labneh or mascarpone 1 tbsp icing (confectioners’) sugar 50g nibbed pistachios 75g rose Turkish delight, finely diced

- Grease a 25cm/10in springform cake tin with butter. Mix the cookie crumbs with the melted butter then press the mixture into the bottom of the cake tin. Pop it in the fridge to chill while you make the topping.
- Preheat the oven to 160°C. Beat the labneh with the sugar and then slowly work in the nuts, cardamom, eggs, cream and rose water.
- Stir the chopped Turkish delight through the mixture and pile it into the cake tin on top of the chilled biscuit base.
- Bake in the centre of the oven for around



1½ hours, until the top is set and lightly golden. Allow to cool before carefully ejecting from the tin.

- Beat the labneh for the topping together with the icing sugar and spread it lightly over your cooled creation.
- Sprinkle the nibbed pistachio nuts and cubes of Turkish delight over the top, and marvel at how very jolly it looks.
- Chill well before cutting into portions.
- Tip: substituting almonds for pistachios makes for a slightly cheaper dessert (though they are not nearly as pretty).

Taken from Persepolis: Vegetarian recipes from Peckham, Persia and beyond by Sally Butcher, published by Pavilion at £25. To buy from The Week Bookshop for £22, call 020-3176 3835 or visit www.theweek.co.uk/bookshop.

New cars: what the critics say



Lexus IS
from £29,995

Autocar

For a premium carmaker, conquering the compact executive saloon market is “the ultimate litmus test”. Competition is so fierce that if you can outdo the BMW 3 Series, or the Audi A4, you gain a “mass-produced advert of your technological prowess”. In its earlier incarnations, the IS wasn’t even in the running; but now, in a bid to take on the “German opposition”, Lexus has given the car an overhaul.

Auto Express

The IS was already a stylish car. With a new grille and bumper, its exterior is now more handsome than ever. The interior isn’t “quite so chic”, but it’s still very comfortable. The cabin has high-quality materials, and there’s lots of space – though headroom is a bit cramped. The big disappointment, though, is that Lexus hasn’t replaced its “ageing” infotainment system.

What Car?

On the road, the IS has never come close to matching its rivals. Unfortunately, it still lags – though Lexus has made “welcome improvements”: the steering is more direct and there’s plenty of grip. If you go for the hybrid 300h model, the car is near-silent at low speeds, whether running off the battery or engine. Yet it doesn’t amount to quite enough: the IS still feels “rather past its best”.

The best... green household gadgets

◀ **Charles Viancin Poppy Lid**

A reusable alternative to cling film, these silicone lids form a tight seal on smooth-edged glasses and dishes, and are available in a range of sizes. You can use them in microwaves and on pans on the hob too (from £7.49; www.johnlewis.com).

▶ **Smart Cara** Invented in South Korea, this device dries food waste at the press of a button and grinds it into an odourless powder, shrinking it in volume by up to 90%. The nutrient-rich powder can then be mixed into the soil in the garden (£399; www.smartcaraeurope.com).

▲ **Hive Active Heating**

This smart thermostat is a doddle to use. It allows you to control your heating and hot water manually or remotely, from your mobile, tablet or laptop – so you can make sure your radiators are only on when you need them to be (from £249; www.hivehome.com).

▶ **Vektra kettle** Effectively a cross between a vacuum flask and a kettle, the Vektra boils water and then keeps it hot for up to four hours – so you won’t have to reheat it each time you want another cup of tea (from £60; www.vektra.uk).



◀ **Mira Beat Eco** The Beat Eco delivers a quieter, more pleasant shower experience than most eco showerheads. It feels as powerful as a standard head, but uses half as much water. It doesn’t work with electric and low-pressure systems, however (£39.60; www.mirashowers.co.uk).



SOURCES: WHICH?/THE DAILY TELEGRAPH/STUFF

Tips of the week... exercises for the slopes

- Forget running; cycling is better when you’re preparing for a ski holiday. Like skiing, it uses the muscles at the front and back of your legs. For maximum results, do both short intense bursts and longer stretches at a much lower intensity.
- Pilates classes are also useful, as they strengthen the core muscles that help you balance and keep your upper body steady.
- To reduce the risk of knee injuries – among the most common injuries incurred on the slopes – do some strength training in advance. Working one leg at a time, try step-ups and lunges, before building up to plyometric training – leaping from one leg to another, in different directions.
- You can improve your lower back mobility with this simple move to stretch your spine: lie on your back and raise one knee while pulling it sideways towards the floor with the opposite hand. Hold for 20 seconds, keeping your shoulders flat on the floor, then repeat with the other leg.

SOURCE: THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

And for those who have everything...



Brew gold-standard coffee with this precision machine. Handcrafted by artist Jean Luc Rieutort, it sends hot water from the 24-karat boiling pot to the grounds in the Baccarat carafe – before suction pulls the finished brew back into the pot.

from £8,300;
www.royalcoffeemaker.com

SOURCE: DIGITAL TRENDS

Apps... for cooking

Kitchen Stories is one of the most user-friendly cooking apps. You can browse its huge recipe database by theme and country – and follow the instructions with the aid of videos and photos (free; Android and iOS).

Timer+ helps you keep track of different dishes that are cooking at the same time, by offering multiple timers. Each has its own distinct alarm and an easy-to-read countdown (free; Android and iOS).

Yummly allows users to search for recipes on a range of websites, filtering them by cooking time, allergy and cuisine. It also offers personalised recommendations and a handy shopping list feature (free; Android, iOS and Windows).

Kitchen Calculator Pro makes it quick and easy to convert measurements, turning pounds, cups and Fahrenheit, among others, into more familiar units. If you’re scaling up a recipe, it will also multiply the quantities of ingredients needed accordingly (£2.99; iOS).

SOURCES: THE GUARDIAN/THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

This week's dream: the slow train to the Himalaya

You can't moan about the ticket prices on the Kangra Valley Railway. To travel its entire length through the Himalayan foothills of northern India costs just 35 rupees – around 42p. Admittedly, the 100-mile journey takes just short of ten hours. But with the ever-changing views of the Dhauladhar valley to enjoy, and the snow-capped peaks beyond, you don't want to rush, says Stephen McClarence in *The Sunday Telegraph*. And as a bonus, the route is relatively little known to tourists, attracting just a fraction of the thousands who take the celebrated "toy train" up to Shimla, about 70 miles to the south.

Completed in 1929, the railway climbs to more than 4,200ft, travelling to 33 stations and over 970 bridges, many of them marvels of engineering. The trains are simple, with five "boxy" blue-and-yellow general-class carriages and one first-class carriage, in which the seats are only lightly padded, but not uncomfortable. Passengers tend to be from a cross-section of



Travellers enjoy views of valleys and snow-capped peaks

society, from businessmen to labourers. On the platforms, barbers set up stall, old ladies sing Hindi songs for tips, and chai wallahs bearing great chrome teapots crowd around the trains, passing cups of tea through the windows.

Setting out from Pathankot, the train trundles through low-forested hills, orange groves and tea gardens, past fields dotted with conical haystacks, and school playgrounds where children sit cross-legged for their lessons. Then the uplands open out: dense forests, broad rivers, deep gorges, plateaux with grazing cattle.

For those who can't stomach the full ten hours, Kangra – a bustling town with a dramatic fort, five hours in – is a good place to get off. As the train pulls in, you are welcomed by a "cloudburst" of screeching parakeets and a wonderful view of Himalayan peaks, "glistening icy white". *Cox & Kings* (www.coxandkings.co.uk) has an 11-night Himalayan Foothills tour from £1,845pp, including flights and trains.

Getting the flavour of...



Riding in Patagonia

Set in an untouched landscape of mountains, forests and lakes, Estancia San Juan de Quillen offers riding holidays as "luxuriously idiosyncratic" as any to be found in Argentina, says Saskia Burgess in the FT. The 50,000-acre estancia, in the

Lanín National Park, was founded in the 1920s by the Lagos Mármol family, and (although the original building has since been destroyed by fire) the estate has remained in the family ever since. The current owners are so charming, and the homemade food so good, that staying here is like "discovering relatives you never knew you had". There are views of snow-dusted volcanoes; the space feels endless; and the riding (on Criollo horses) is glorious. The idea is to spend about five hours a day on horseback, stopping for lunch cooked over an open fire and a dip in Lake Quillen. *Audley Travel* (01993-838000, www.audleytravel.com) has a seven-night trip from £5,800 per person, incl. flights.



France's other riviera

Languedoc-Roussillon, on France's south coast where the Pyrenees rise from the Mediterranean, is a place of extremes, says Anthony Peregrine in *The Daily Telegraph*. "Fierce of sun, colour and temperament", it has steep valleys, "vertical" vineyards and a

gloriously rocky coast that's mercifully free of the "Brazilian bankers and Russian billionaires" that crowd the Riviera. The city of Perpignan has been spruced up in recent years: "convivial" bars and smart shops now line the "sinuous" streets around its medieval fort and grand Gothic town hall. To the south lies Collioure (pictured), a colourful old fishing port where Fauvist painters Matisse and Derain found their inspiration in the summer of 1905. And beyond – a stone's throw from Spain – is Banyuls-sur-Mer, which is small and pretty and perfect for a family holiday. From the end of March, *Ryanair* (www.ryanair.com) will fly directly from Stansted to Perpignan.

Four of the world's best luxury spa resorts

From boot camps to healing retreats, the wellness industry now has sanctuaries to meet every need, says Condé Nast Traveller

Active Wildfitness, Scotland

To lose weight and get fit, set aside your inhibitions and immerse yourself in a Wildfitness retreat. The company's newest outpost is a Victorian lodge in the Alladale Wilderness Reserve in the Scottish Highlands. There's a sauna and roaring fires inside, and the outdoor workouts are great fun – you'll be doing forward rolls on muddy lawns and cartwheels on beaches. The food is so good that going without dairy and sugar is no privation. From £2,400 for a week (www.wildfitness.com).

Spiritual Raas Devigarh, India

Set near the Jain temples in Delwara, this "exquisite" 18th century palace-turned-hotel has a new spa overseen by the British skincare brand Ila. Using wild harvested ingredients and ancient techniques, such as crystal-bowl healing and sound therapy, the treatments take you on "a journey through the chakras" into a more "graceful" dimension. There's a pool, a gym, yoga tuition, and an excellent choice of food. From £398 per night (www.raasdevigarh.com).

Medical Villa Stephanie, Germany

The little sister of the Brenners Park-Hotel, this gleaming sanctuary in Baden-Baden has 15 rooms and suites, and is the perfect place for a "360° assessment of your wellbeing". You can be checked over by specialists from a range of medical disciplines; and there are fitness programmes that promise to improve your overall emotional balance, and spa treatments to "rebalance your zen fitness". From €500 per night (www.brenners.com).

Relaxed Sanará, Mexico

For a "gentle", holistic spa programme with no robes-and-slippers "pomp", check into this smart, British-owned boutique hotel in the hip beach resort of Tulum. Sanará offers yoga classes in a studio with a "jaw-dropping" ocean view, and bespoke treatments including reflexology and *sobada* sessions with a Mayan healer that aim to improve fertility through massage. Food is free from grain, gluten, dairy and refined sugar, but still tasty. From £350 per night (www.sanaratulum.com).



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The talented pianist who became a staple of the party circuit

**Tara Palmer-Tomkinson
1971-2017**

As a child, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson dreamt – she would later tell an interviewer – “of riding in the Grand National or becoming a concert pianist”. Considered a talented musician at school, she achieved good exam results and excelled at sports. Yet instead of pursuing any of these talents, said The Guardian, she became the first of the 1990s “It Girls” – famous only for being famous. With her royal connections, vivacious personality and quick wit, she was a “gift to the media”. “Glamorous but friendly”, she was always ready to supply a quote or strike a pose (she turned up to her 27th birthday party wearing a white bikini and a snorkel). She appeared on TV shows, wrote a (ghosted) column for The Sunday Times chronicling her social whirl and starred in TV ads. Yet Palmer-Tomkinson, who was found dead in her flat last week aged 45, was never entirely comfortable in her party-girl persona; she later admitted that she had overcome her insecurities with the aid of copious amounts of champagne and her well-publicised £400-a-day cocaine habit. “Of course, I haven’t earned [fame] and I didn’t feel I was worth it, and going to all those endless parties, it made me feel worth a pile of shit,” she said in 2012.



Palmer-Tomkinson: a gift to the media

the school” – yet she came away with ten O-levels and two As and a B at A-level. Even so, she eschewed university, and after a stint at drama school briefly worked at Rothschild, before joining the party circuit while trying her luck as a model. Then, in 1995, in front of the paparazzi on the ski slopes of Klosters, she gave Prince Charles a chaste kiss on the cheek. The picture went around the world; Tatler put her on its cover and declared her the new It Girl. After that, barely a day went by without a picture of “Tara P-T” appearing in one paper or another, said The Times. She seemed to be at every society party, premiere and

polo event. Flying to Venice for after-dinner coffee was “like going to Starbucks for me”, she said. But after a couple of years, the partying began to take its toll. She was pictured staggering, pale and dishevelled, out of nightclubs and falling out of taxis. In 1999, she made an incoherent appearance on *The Frank Skinner Show*. After that, she checked into rehab and also joined Debtors Anonymous: she was £50,000 in the red.

She became the butt of jokes and some of her friends deserted her, said the Daily Mail. Even so, she gamely carried on, making spirited appearances on reality TV shows, and winning a celebrity singing contest on *Comic Relief*; she also wrote a couple of books. In 2006, she had cosmetic surgery to repair the damage to her nasal septum caused by her years of cocaine abuse. Last year, she revealed that she had been diagnosed with a brain tumour (which proved benign) and a rare autoimmune disease, which left her in intense physical pain. “In a way, I’m like Alice in Wonderland,” she said last year. “I fall down the rabbit hole and there are teddy bears’ picnics and Mad Hatters and tea parties going on all around me, but somehow I manage to climb back up. Then, just as I poke my head out the top, I go falling back down again. But I will get out, I will.”

Tara Palmer-Tomkinson was born in 1971 and brought up on her parents’ 1,200-acre estate in Hampshire. Her father, Charles, had been an Olympic skier, and befriended Prince Charles while teaching him to ski. Charles would later become godfather to both Tara and her older sister, the writer Santa Montefiore. They had a happy childhood, but Tara struggled when she was sent to board at Hanford School in Dorset. She was, she said, “desperate to make friends” and thought she could manage that “by being really weird”. This, she said, made her popular “for a while”. Later, at Sherborne, she described herself as the “naughtiest girl in

Convivial journalist who transformed The Spectator

**Alexander Chancellor
1940-2017**

“He was a completely wonderful editor,” one of Alexander Chancellor’s colleagues at The Spectator once declared, “even if we couldn’t always understand why he was.” It was a verdict with which the eternally self-deprecating Chancellor might have agreed, said The Guardian. Yet the secret of his journalistic success was actually pretty plain. He may have seemed a bit vague and been fond of extremely long lunches (“Both, of course”, was his usual response when asked if he wanted red or white wine), but he was also “endlessly curious” and had an exceptional eye for talent. During his years at the helm, The Spectator was transformed from a “bilious and parochial Tory weekly” to a thriving magazine read by people across the political spectrum.



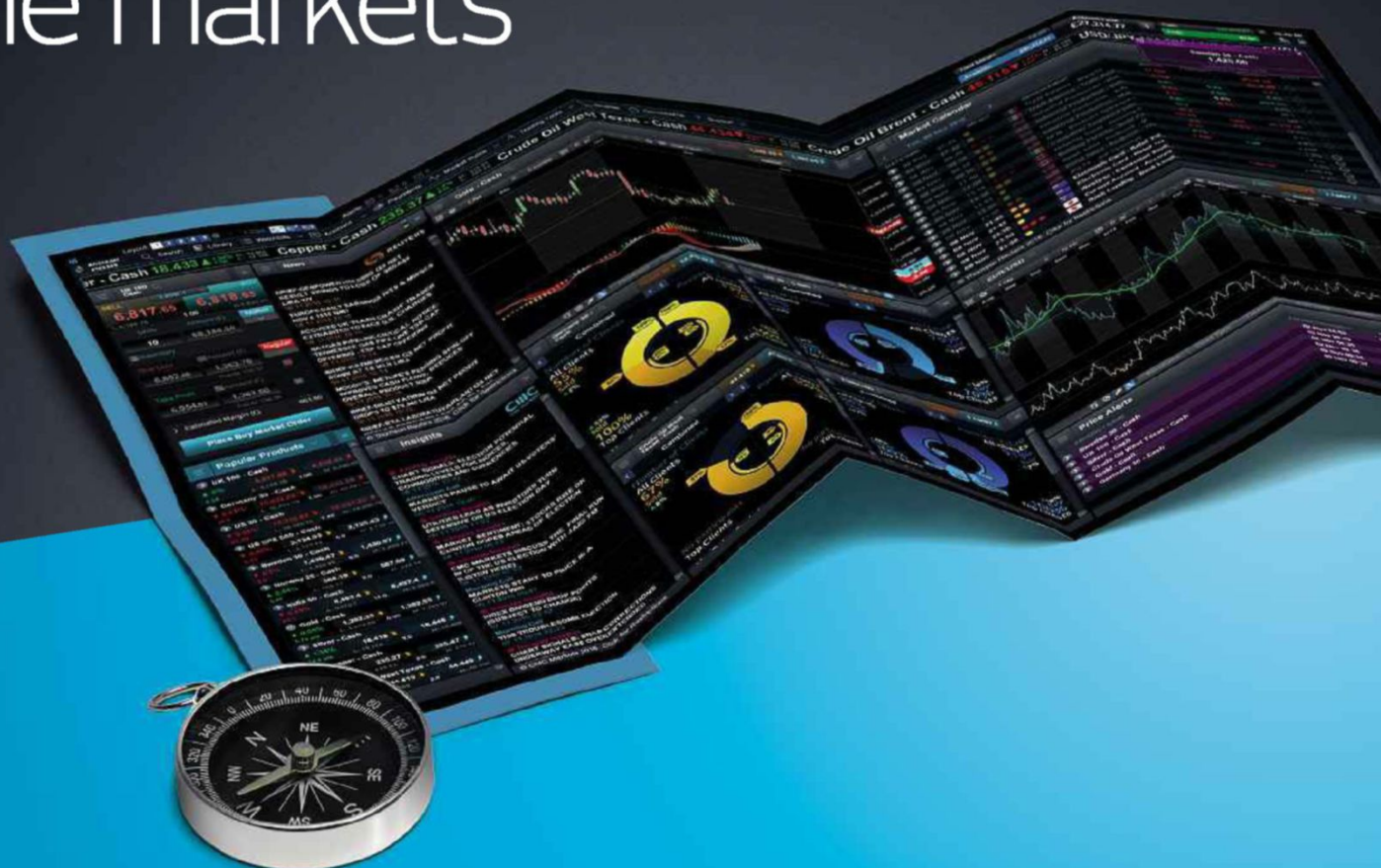
Chancellor: “endlessly curious”

bought The Spectator in 1975. He reportedly appointed Chancellor editor because he was the only journalist he knew. Chancellor soon revealed a knack for hiring brilliant writers, bringing in the likes of Auberon Waugh, Ferdinand Mount and Shiva Naipaul. Perhaps his greatest coup was to pair the bibulous bohemian Jeffrey Bernard and arch socialite Taki Theodoracopulos as authors of the Low and High Life columns respectively. The magazine’s circulation doubled. But nine years later it was still losing money and, under the new ownership of Algy Cluff, Chancellor found himself ousted as editor. It wasn’t until the 1990s that The Spectator began to turn a profit; yet most agree the transformation began under Chancellor.

He went on to forge a successful career as a freelance journalist, penning columns for newspapers ranging from The Daily Telegraph to The Guardian, and launching The Independent’s Saturday magazine. A rare failure came in 1993 when Tina Brown appointed him to write The New Yorker’s Talk of the Town column, explaining to doubters that his prose had “perfect pitch”. Trouble was, he didn’t know much about New York. He was soon relieved of his duties and would thenceforth respond to any mention of his “perfect pitch” by emitting his inimitable laugh, which some compared to a burst of radio static, others to a bird calling from the reeds.

Alexander Surtees Chancellor, who has died aged 77, was born in Hertfordshire, the son of Sir Christopher Chancellor. His father had been chairman of the news agency Reuters, and after attending Eton and Cambridge, where he studied modern languages, Alexander followed in his footsteps. He rose within his profession by “an almost 18th century mixture of patronage and accident”, said The Times. Having been Rome bureau chief for Reuters, Chancellor was working, somewhat unhappily, as a reporter at ITN when his old school friend Henry Keswick

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Companies in the news ...and how they were assessed

Rolls-Royce: bribery and Brexit losses

Just weeks after being hit with a £671m fine for corruption, Rolls-Royce has reported the biggest loss in its 133-year history – and indeed, “one of the biggest losses in British corporate history”, said Graham Ruddick in *The Guardian*. The engine-maker (a separate entity to the carmaker of the same name) lost £4.6bn last year. The bribery fine was a factor, as was the company’s worsening performance in key civil and military aviation and marine markets. But the biggest hit came from the post-Brexit fall of the pound, which has forced Rolls to write down its extensive currency hedges (designed to protect the business from a fall in the value of dollar-denominated service contracts). The figures certainly aren’t good, said Simon Jack on BBC News online, but they have been “massively distorted” by this “whopping” £4.4bn accounting charge – the result of sterling’s 20% fall. Many years’ worth of currency hedging contracts are now “worth less than when they were taken out”. The more positive news is that underlying trading last year was actually “a bit better than expected”. In fact, some investors reckon that Rolls may have “turned a corner” under chief executive Warren East. Given that dozens of former executives, including former CEO Sir John Rose, are still enmeshed in the Serious Fraud Office’s corruption probe, that at least is something to cheer about.

L’Oréal/The Body Shop: coming clean

Little more than ten years after buying The Body Shop, the French cosmetics giant L’Oréal is reportedly mulling a sale of the company, which under its founder, Anita Roddick, was known for its “exotic ingredients, social activism and environmental conscience”, said Mark Vandeveld in the FT. L’Oréal is apparently looking for €1bn for the brand. That’s about the same price it paid back in 2006 – reflecting an acquisition that “has not proven wholly successful”. The chief problem, according to beauty experts, is that The Body Shop’s traditionally “young, budget-conscious and idealistic customers” have “started looking elsewhere”. Even the packaging looks dated. L’Oréal is growing at a rate of 5% a year, thanks to innovations such as smartphone apps which allow customers “to try out a look by applying virtual make-up” to a video image of their face. But these have “largely bypassed” The Body Shop. High margins at new competitors such as L’Occitane imply “a buyout firm with retail nous could squeeze out more profit” from the chain, said Neil Unmack on Reuters Breakingviews. But its “fading appeal means its new owner is more likely to end up taking a bath – and not a nicely scented one”.

Uber: pie in the sky?

Uber claims that its futuristic plan to develop “flying driverless taxis” will ease road congestion and cut travel time, said Mark Blunden in the London Evening Standard. Sceptics still consider the project, dubbed Uber Elevate, to be pie in the sky, but the dream came a little closer last week when the taxi app company hired “a Nasa veteran to work on its blueprints”. The man in question, Mark Moore, is “a pioneer of flying car design” – just the ticket for a firm planning to build a future “ecosystem” of flying taxis picking up commuters from city “vertiports” by 2026. Moore, who has 30 years’ Nasa experience, said *The Economist*. Even so, Uber faces an uphill struggle. The biggest current challenge to claiming the skies, according to experts, is insufficient battery power.



Seven days in the Square Mile

The “Trump Bump” struck on both sides of the Atlantic, with US indices setting new intraday highs, and the FTSE 250 index recording its longest run of record closes in two years. Traders shrugged off the warning tone adopted by Fed chair Janet Yellen, who hinted at further rate rises this year, arguing that “waiting too long... would be unwise”. The **rouble** hit its highest level against the dollar for almost two years, thanks to optimism about oil prices and encouraging US foreign policy signals.

New **ONS** figures suggested that Britain’s economic performance continued to defy expectations of a Brexit-induced slump. Manufacturing output grew by 2.1% in December; construction output by 1.8%. But despite record employment, research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggested that nearly a third of the UK’s population is living on an “inadequate income”.

General Motors entered talks to sell its Opel and Vauxhall marques to **Peugeot**, in a move that could jeopardise some 4,000 jobs at its Ellesmere Port and Luton plants. Jim Ratcliffe, the man behind the Ineos chemicals group, announced plans to start remanufacturing a version of **Land Rover**’s discontinued Defender model. In a case with implications for the “gig economy”, the Appeal Court ruled that a self-employed worker at **Pimlico Plumbers** was entitled to employment rights.

Twitter: why can’t “Trump’s megaphone” turn a profit?

“The whole world is watching Twitter,” declared its chief executive, Jack Dorsey, last week. He’s right, said *The Wall Street Journal*. “Twitter sits at the centre of the conversation about American politics more than any other company today – and yet it can’t seem to capitalise on it.” The latest quarterly earnings were grisly, showing its tenth straight quarter of slowing revenue growth. Dorsey said that Twitter was “recrafting its strategy” to cash in on its “increased relevance” under Twitter-addict President Trump. But investors weren’t impressed and shares tumbled 10%. Twitter’s insurmountable problem, according to Wells Fargo analyst Peter Stabler, is the way people use it. “Fast-twitch consumption is at odds with the kind of ads Twitter is trying to sell.”



Dorsey: the world is watching

last week was “an absurd under-reaction”. Worth \$45bn at its height, the platform’s current market capitalisation is around \$12bn; but that shrivelled figure still looks “mystifyingly high” for a company that isn’t growing and that lost \$460m last year. Indeed, you might call it a “post-truth stock price”.

Maybe Twitter’s shorn value, and its status as “Trump’s megaphone”, is enough “to rekindle the interest of opportunistic buyers”, said Danny Fortson in *The Sunday Times*. But there is another possible route. “A common refrain” in Silicon Valley is that Twitter should “be converted into a non-profit public service” like the BBC, so that it can continue to “serve as a global public square”. It’s certainly worth a punt when you consider “the darker alternative” – that Twitter will continue “plodding down the same path towards irrelevance trod by other internet pioneers such as Yahoo and AOL”.

“Twitter is ex-growth,” said Lex in the FT. Yet even now, some investors “refuse to accept the bald message”. The 10% plunge

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Issue of the week: farewell to the Co-op Bank?

Does the sale of the historic mutual bank mark the end of ethical banking in Britain?

"Due to a general incompatibility between God and Mammon, ethical banking has long been seen as something of an oxymoron in both philosophical and business circles," said Lex in the Financial Times. The Co-operative Bank has found that out "the hard way". Following a ruinous and hubristic expansion, the ethical lender, which traces its roots back to 1872, has put itself up for sale after admitting that it would fail to meet its own capital targets. Arguably, the writing has been on the wall for the Co-op Bank since 2009, when it took over the Britannia building society, creating a "supermutual" to take on established high street banks. That deal, as a Bank of England official later admitted, "probably saved Britannia from going under and triggering a systemic crisis". But the purchase tore a £1.5bn hole in the Co-op's balance sheet from which it never recovered.



The Co-op: from turnaround to fire sale

the turnaround plan". Who's he trying to kid? True, Flowers left "an unholy mess" – and record low interest rates and the Britannia deal didn't help. "But if the subsequent turnaround had lived up to its name, it wouldn't be ending in a fire sale. No wonder Niall Booker, the bank's former £3.8m-a-year chief, rushed for the exit in December."

Who will end up with Co-op Bank's four million customers? "That remains anyone's guess," said James Quinn in The Daily Telegraph. TSB, Virgin Money, Yorkshire Bank and Paragon have all been suggested as potential suitors, but it's questionable whether any existing bank "would want to take on

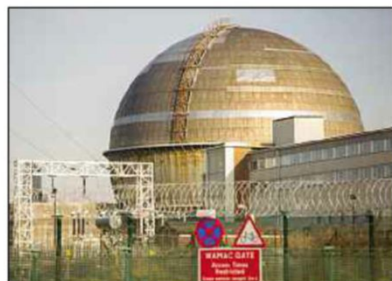
the risk attached to the Co-op", given the still sizeable toxic loans on its books following the Britannia merger. The likelihood is that the bank will be broken up, with the good bits – 1.4 million current account holders and a now "half-decent" mortgage book – hived off from the bad, said Patrick Collinson in The Guardian. But what of Co-op Bank's fabled ethical policy? Any buyer with an ounce of sense "will seek to maintain some sort of ethical stance" to keep hold of customers. But we can expect to hear a good deal of "noise" and "little in the way of substance". Whatever its eventual fate, "the Co-op Bank as an independent, ethically-based challenger to the major banks is dead".

It's a miracle the bank survived this long – given that its former chairman, the Reverend Paul Flowers, "was off his box on crystal meth", said Alistair Osborne in The Times. When he was kicked out following a tabloid scandal in 2013, the Co-op Group lost control of the bank "to a bunch of highly ethical US hedge funds", and now owns just 20% of it. According to the current chairman, a sale was "always considered a potential outcome of

Keeping the lights on: what the pundits think

● Nuclear tosh

Shares in Toshiba were whacked again this week on news that it had been forced to take a \$6.3bn write-down of its Westinghouse nuclear business in the US, said CNBC. The situation is so serious for the Japanese electronics conglomerate, whose shares have now plummeted to half their worth in December, that it is considering selling its "prized" memory chip business to stay alive. But the financial crisis engulfing Toshiba also has big ramifications for Britain, said Emily Gosden in The Times. Toshiba owns 60% of the NuGen consortium, which is scheduled to complete a £15bn nuclear power station at Moorside in Cumbria by 2025. The company no longer wants to take on the construction risk and is looking to sell its NuGen stake.



Britain's ageing nuclear plants: Sellafield

nuclear reactors". But problems are mounting. The most advanced project, at Hinkley Point in Somerset, was approved last autumn, but two other plants based on the same EDF reactor design (in France and Finland) "are years behind schedule".

Meanwhile, financing for the proposed Wylfa plant on Anglesey, which is being built by Hitachi, has yet to be secured. With more than two-thirds of our power generation capacity retiring between 2010 and 2030, the situation looks urgent.

● Monster projects

The Business and Energy Secretary, Greg Clark, has played down the concerns about Moorside. But Justin Bowden, of the GMB union, argued that Toshiba's financial strife showed it was "plain stupid" to rely on foreign investors for UK energy security, and urged the Government to take action. He has a point, said Alistair Osborne in The Times. "Bribing EDF and China to build the world's priciest nuke" at Hinkley Point was "bad enough"; banking on "radioactive" Toshiba looks even more foolhardy. "How many more alarm bells does the Government need before it stops betting our energy future on monster nuclear projects?"

● Wider meltdown

That could mean big problems for the UK's already troubled nuclear power programme – "an important component of the country's strategy to reduce carbon emissions and keep the lights on", said the FT. Britain plans to build six nuclear power stations by 2025 to replace "dirty coal-fired plants" and "the existing fleet of ageing

Cohabitation nation

Many people who are either married or simply living together "cannot bring themselves to discuss or organise their joint finances", says Anne Ashworth in The Times. This is a particularly "perilous strategy" for cohabitantes – despite a Supreme Court ruling last week that the partner of a man who had died was entitled to his pension. Do not assume that just because you've lived together for years you have the same legal rights as a married couple. If you don't want to go down the marriage route, here are some tips to safeguard your assets...

Pensions Complete a separate nomination form for each of your pension schemes, so that benefits can be paid to either partner if one of you dies. Read the small print.

Property Make sure any property and mortgages are in both names. If a cohabiting couple separates, the courts have no powers to override the strict legal ownership of property and divide it, as they may do on the dissolution of a marriage or civil partnership.

Assets overall Write a will setting out clearly how assets should be shared. It's the only way to avoid the laws of intestacy, which may dictate that other family members inherit after death.

A Greek crisis with a difference

Matthew Lynn

The Daily Telegraph

Spring is coming, and with it the now “traditional” Greek debt crisis, says Matthew Lynn. The “embattled country” needs a fresh round of funds under its €86bn bailout programme, but it is struggling to hit the harsh austerity targets imposed by the EU, the European Central Bank and the IMF. The script is usually wearily predictable: grandstanding and threats, followed by a late-night deal. “This time around, however, it could be different”, with President Trump in the White House. Given that Greece remains an economic basket case, “the only sane argument” for the constant bailouts has been “to keep the euro together”. Previous US administrations viewed this as a “strategic imperative” and pushed for compromise; but Trump “doesn’t like” Europe. Indeed, “if he wanted to land a blow on the EU, encouraging a Grexit would be the best way to do it”. Imagine the “mischief” he could cause if he leaned on the IMF not to participate, or offered the Greeks financial help to quit. This might look like the same old Greek debt crisis, but the outcome could be “explosive”. This year, or maybe next, Greece may finally leave the euro.

America’s missing women

Sarah O’Connor

Financial Times

Donald Trump is right to highlight the “festering crisis of worklessness” in America, says Sarah O’Connor. Despite the officially low unemployment rate, around 20% of people in their prime years (between 25 and 54) are “neither working nor looking for work”. Trump has focused on the “missing men” whose manufacturing jobs have been lost to robots, or to foreign workers. Yet “America’s women are disappearing too”: prime-age female labour force participation is now lower in the US than in Japan, partly because US policy is “particularly unsupportive” of mothers who want to stay in work. “The good news for Trump, who has tied the success of his presidency to jobs, is that there are policy levers here just waiting to be pulled.” He has already promised six weeks of paid maternity leave, but should be bolder, given that the US “begins with a blank slate” on “family-friendly” policies. “There is an important debate to be had about labour force participation in America. But if you think it is only about men, you are missing half the problem – and half the solution.”

“Sub-prime” cars are a flashing light

Patrick Collinson

The Guardian

Could the next financial crash be ignited by cars, asks Patrick Collinson. That’s the fear of some analysts, who claim that a boom in cheap leasing deals is “fuelling a colossal buildup of debt” in Britain and America; there are “parallels”, they argue, with the sub-prime mortgage crisis. The motor industry is on a roll: a record 2.7 million new cars were sold in Britain last year – the fifth year in a row of rising sales – with the vast majority of purchases being financed by “personal contract plans”, or PCPs. Some of these leasing loans have been packaged into asset-backed securities and sold on to investors such as pension funds. “The ratings giants, Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s, have given most of these batches of loans a triple-A safety rating”, arguing that the default rate is “extremely low”. But given that cars are a depreciating asset, the sheer buildup of debt is worrying. In the US, the total stock of outstanding car loans has jumped to \$1.1trn. The impact on repayments, were the economy to tank or interest rates to rise, is obvious. Car financing is “a flashing light”.

Boom time for snow-makers

Editorial

The Economist

“Thousands of families will hit Europe’s slopes this month hoping that snow conditions will be more favourable than at the start of the season in December,” says The Economist. But for resorts worried about the weather, “there are plenty of firms to help with piste-covering” and Europe appears to have the market sewn up. A tiny number of European firms, led by TechnoAlpin, dominate the international market for fan guns, snow lances and other devices that use water and compressed air to make snow crystals. And business is growing: turnover at TechnoAlpin has expanded from €90m in 2011 to €170m last year, “as more and more resorts try to satisfy snow-seekers”. Still, the warming world is both a boon and a headache for snowmaking companies. Sure, they make money if the snow arrives later and melts earlier, but their technology is itself dependent on freezing temperatures. No wonder the pressure is on to plough back revenues into researching how to make snow even when temperatures are above freezing. “Snowmakers have enjoyed much success recently – but profits will be limited if their flakes turn to slush.”

City profiles

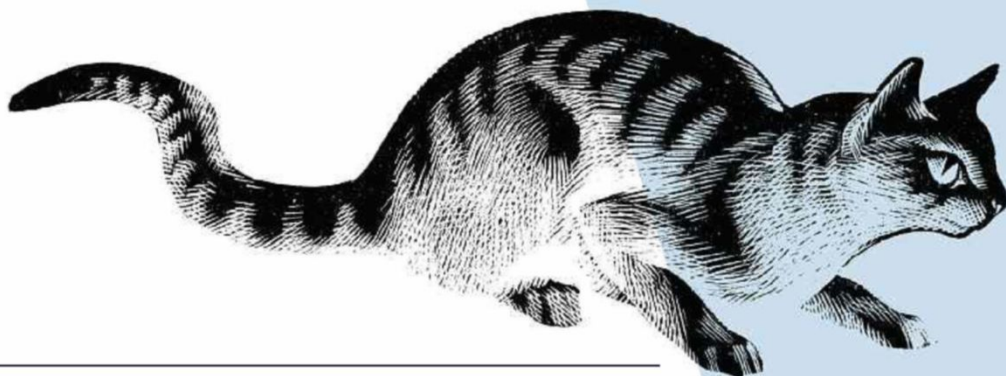
Nick and Christian Candy

Property tycoons Nick and Christian Candy have been dubbed the “Bling Brothers” for their lavish lifestyles, said Vanessa Allen in the Daily Mail. They now stand accused of “an extraordinary campaign of bullying, blackmail and intimidation” in a case brought by a former associate seeking £132m in damages. The High Court action, brought by Mark Holyoake – who shared a house with Nick Candy at university – centres on a £12m loan he obtained from the Candys in 2011 to buy a Belgravia luxury flat development. He claims the brothers conspired to drive him into bankruptcy, so that they could “steal” the deal, by allegedly coercing him into ruinous repayments – and then threatening to sell the debt to Russians who, they said, “would not think twice” about using violence against him and his family.



The Candys deny the “fantastical and spiteful” allegations “in their entirety”, maintaining that Holyoake – whose previous business, British Seafood, collapsed with debts of £250m – is lying in a deliberate attempt to extract cash from them. Even so, the case has shone an unwelcome “spotlight” on their finances, said Juliette Garside in The Guardian. In court last week, Holyoake claimed Nick told him the brothers “were not prepared to pay any tax” on their developments – hence the move to split their business and move the lucrative property arm to Guernsey, where it is run by Christian Candy’s CPC Group. As a “shadow director” and undeclared partner in CPC, Nick Candy was confident about getting 50% of the profits tax-free, Holyoake alleged. The case continues.

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Who's tipping what: the week's best buys...

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Morgan Stanley views the Primark-owner's 30% fall in shares in the last ten months as overdone. Primark remains an "excellent" long-term prospect, and the valuation of ABF's sugar business has increased. Buy. £25.24.

Bankers' Investment Trust*The Daily Telegraph*

With quarterly dividend payments and a history of outperformance, the trust's investment approach is global but conservative. It trades at a discount relative to the value of its assets, so is a "solid choice". Buy. 751.75p.

Dairy Crest*Daily Mail*

Analysts at Peel Hunt warn that net debt is set to rise, spurred by rising costs and weaker sterling. But they're still bullish about growth and profit prospects, setting a new target price of 720p. Buy. 557.5p.

Inmarsat*The Sunday Telegraph*

The satellite broadband specialist has had a tumultuous year, but prospects are looking up. A joint venture to deliver in-flight internet connectivity to air travellers looks particularly promising. One for the long-term. Buy. 652p.

Paragon Group*Investors Chronicle*

This "challenger" bank took a hit in 2015, as investors fretted about the impact of a stamp duty hike on buy-to-let properties. But the balance sheet is strong and Paragon has since diversified into other areas of growth. Buy. 411.9p.

RPC Group*The Times*

After three acquisitions in two months, some may wonder if this packing business has overstretched itself. But RPC has a good record for bedding-in buys and the benefits of these latest moves will emerge in due course. Buy. 998p.

Sage*Sharecast*

Sage's stock has been the worst performer in European software this year: shares trade at a 16% discount to peers. Exane BNP Paribas thinks they're a bargain and has upped its target to 750p, citing recovering growth. Buy. 647p.

St Modwen Properties*Investors Chronicle*

The property developer took a hit post-Brexit, but the sale of its Covent Garden development looks positive and cash flow appears sound: half the company's portfolio generates rental income. Buy. 329.4p.

TalkTalk*The Daily Telegraph*

Last year's security breach damaged the telecoms provider's reputation and led to an exodus of 42,000 customers in Q3. But healthy cash flow, and the return of founder Sir Charles Dunstone, means it could yet surprise. Buy. 168.60p.

Director's dealings**Polar Capital**

Inflows at the fund manager have picked up since the US election. Following the sharp rally in Polar's shares, non-executive Brian Ashford-Russell has cashed in shares worth £750,000. He still holds a decent 6.65% stake.

SOURCE: INVESTORS CHRONICLE

Market view

"Did I just wake up from my drunken, drug-induced slumber to find we are now living in Orwell's 1984?"

A Lloyds of London worker on the working-hours alcohol ban. Quoted in the LES

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Capita Group*The Mail on Sunday*

The outsourcer's shares have been hit by profit warnings and Brexit-related contract delays. Shore Capital warned in December that the planned structural overhaul could cost more than mooted. It remains unconvinced. Sell. 527p.

GEM Diamonds*Investors Chronicle*

Despite a production surge in the fourth quarter, the miner has unearthed fewer large special diamonds than expected. The future of its Ghaghoo diamond mine in Botswana is also uncertain. Sell. 123p.

Sophos Group*The Times*

Sophos keeps medium-sized businesses safe from cybercrime, but rewards are elusive even in a rapidly consolidating industry. Neither Sophos, nor its new US target Invincea, makes a meaningful profit. Sell. 280p.

Form guide

Shares tipped 12 weeks ago

Best tip
ITV

The Mail on Sunday
up 22.46% to 209.4p

Worst tip
Connect Group

The Times
down 0.36% to 140p

Market summary**Key numbers for investors**

	14 Feb 2017	Week before	Change (%)
FTSE 100	7268.56	7186.22	1.15%
FTSE All-share UK	3957.59	3912.66	1.15%
Dow Jones	20429.00	20108.99	1.59%
NASDAQ	5764.41	5682.66	1.44%
Nikkei 225	19238.98	18910.78	-1.74%
Hang Seng	23703.01	23331.57	-1.59%
Gold	1230.75	1231.00	-0.02%
Brent Crude Oil	55.96	54.85	-2.02%
DIVIDEND YIELD (FTSE 100)	3.59%	3.63%	
UK 10-year gilts yield	1.31	1.29	
US 10-year Treasuries	2.51	2.35	
UK ECONOMIC DATA			
Latest CPI (yoy)	1.8% (Jan)	1.6% (Dec)	
Latest RPI (yoy)	2.6% (Jan)	2.5% (Dec)	
Halifax house price (yoy)	+5.7% (Jan)	+6.5% (Dec)	
£1 STERLING	\$1.243 €1.178 ¥142.260		

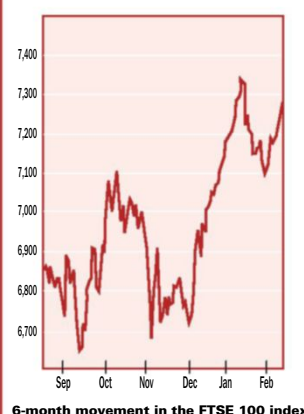
Best and worst performing shares**WEEK'S CHANGE, FTSE 100 STOCKS**

RISES	Price	% change
Royal Bank of Scotland	241.00	6.92
Intl Cons. Airlines Gp.	503.00	6.43
Rio Tinto	3640.00	5.97
Capita	527.00	5.87
Antofagasta	879.00	5.14
FALLS		
Worldpay Group	268.50	-4.38
Convatec Group	238.00	-2.98
Fresnillo	1524.00	-2.68
Reckitt Benckiser Group	6926.00	-2.57
Johnson Matthey	3115.00	-2.04

BEST AND WORST UK STOCKS OVERALL

Frontera Resources	0.14	+110.71
Strat Aero	0.10	-36.36

Source: Datastream (not adjusted for dividends). Prices on 14 Feb (pm)

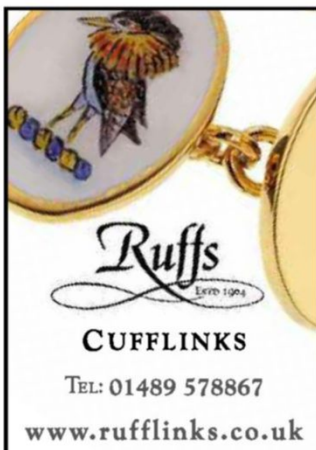
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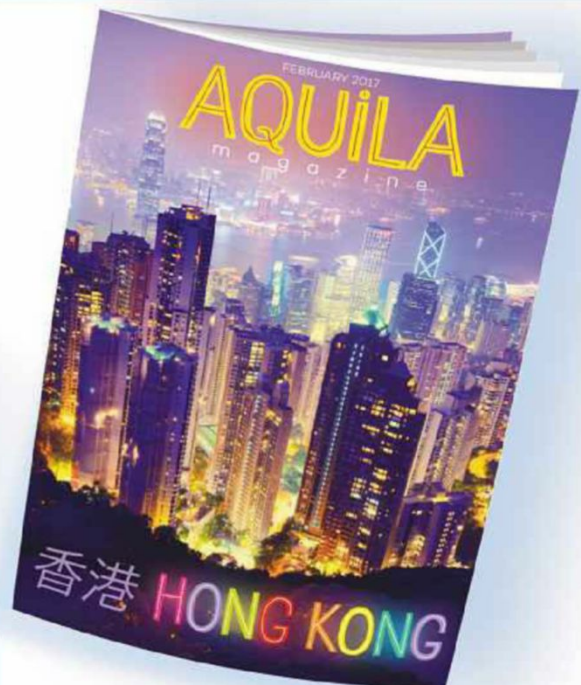
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February: Hong Kong

This month AQUILA has an oriental flavour!

Hong Kong's rags to riches history is a wonderful mix of *East meets West*. We celebrate the Chinese New Year by making a Rooster Kite, some yummy Wonton soup and a lunar calendar. Includes letters from AQUILA's Hong Kong subscribers, puzzles, competitions and serious F.U.N!

“The audience is in comfortable seats and you have to attack them”

Mel Gibson's Second World War film *Hacksaw Ridge* has been nominated for six Oscars – in part because of its spectacular, shocking combat scenes. Here, crew members from six groundbreaking war films reveal some of the tricks of their trade

Hacksaw Ridge Mic Rodgers, second-unit director and stunt coordinator

The casualty rate at the Battle of Okinawa was 80%: Mel wanted to show that it was bloody, ferocious, gnarly. But we didn't have much money: \$20m, plus the Australian [filming] tax incentive. We recreated the battlefield on a dairy farm near Sydney. It was about 100 metres squared, with a road on the outside where smoke trucks ran, blocking out the farm and the pond and anything else that didn't look like Okinawa.



One of the “ferocious, gnarly” battle scenes in *Hacksaw Ridge*

Mel was off doing his thing with the actors and the dialogue, while I shot everyone fighting for about 15 days. I was following his instructions, but making it up as I went along. I would take select moments, like a Japanese guy getting blown out of the fireball and flying towards the camera, and send it to him by phone. And he would say: “I love it! Do some more of that.” We had about 70 extras and tiled them with CGI: we shot them six times in sections, so they looked like 250 guys. We didn't need to train them that much because the level of training in the Second World War was not like it is now.

We tried to use CGI as little as possible, especially with the stunts. For the flamethrower scenes, we used neoprene hoods with faces laser-printed on them. Once they're moving and on fire, it looks like a guy screaming. The Australian special-effects guys also developed a soft bomb – one that doesn't have a hard explosion. You could get pretty close to it. I'm an I'll-go-first kinda guy; I doubled for Mel on his 1980s films. So I did a test, standing between all these bombs, 3ft away. Afterwards, they said: “You got obliterated!” I said: “It's not that bad if you keep your mouth open – and you've got ear plugs.”

Black Hawk Down Slawomir Idziak, cinematographer

The philosophy is very simple: the audience is sat in comfortable seats and you have to attack them. The action must be dense, in terms of the framing and the amount of events. No emptiness. Emptiness is peaceful. You're packing the audience with an enormous amount of information they can't control. They get nervous, which is what we're fishing for. Sometimes that means cheating intelligently. For example, the helicopters often fly 25-30 metres overhead, which is never the case in battle – there's too much risk of the pilot being killed. And you never shoot at soldiers with RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades] – they're for vehicles. Ridley [Scott, director] realised RPGs were visually attractive though, compared with AK gunfire, where you never see the bullets. For our advisers – we had real Army Rangers on set – watching rockets fly through the air on a line is absolute

nonsense. They couldn't believe their eyes.

Jerry Bruckheimer [producer] cut a deal with the US military. They supplied the Black Hawks, straight from the Afghan battlefield; the Night Stalkers unit, the best of the best. The Moroccan army lent us the twin-rotor Chinooks. Our guys – including me, because I operated a camera – also dressed in battle fatigues and shot in and around the actors. Sometimes you can even see the cameras on screen, but it's cut so quickly you don't realise. You think they're carrying a strange gun.

We originally shot a much more balanced picture, in line with Mark Bowden's original book, that showed both the US and Somali sides. But due to 9/11, we couldn't stick to this kind of approach. All of a sudden America was at war. To make a picture with pacifistic elements was absolutely impossible. So the finished film is much more from a cowboy point of view. It had to play to this national tragedy.

The Hurt Locker Barry Ackroyd, cinematographer

The first thing was to go to a place as realistic as possible. We couldn't go to Iraq, so we chose Jordan: the buildings and the minarets looked the same; the extras had the same basic bone structure – Middle Eastern, not North African. Kathryn [Bigelow, director] wanted the kind of verisimilitude I had provided on *United 93*; long takes with more than one camera observing the characters. We don't break it down into storyboards; you don't second-guess where the honest angle would be, you let things happen. That naturalism comes from my background with Ken Loach. If you're out of focus on a moment such as an explosion, it just makes it more real.

We had military advisers, but just about every American actor has played a soldier at some point. They all know the old “I've got your back” routine. Richard Stutsman, our explosives guy, was brilliant. He created these things so we could safely blow them up inside a city without spraying shrapnel everywhere, but they still looked powerful. In the opening sequence with Guy Pearce, I didn't know how to show the air shock wave – that release of energy is so strong, it can liquefy the body inside the blast suits. We couldn't afford to do it with CGI. But someone working in advertising in Lebanon had created something similar with a Phantom high-speed camera, so we got him in and shot the simplest things in super-slow motion. It was like putting gravel on a bit of plywood and having someone hit it with a sledgehammer in the foreground as Pearce was falling in the mid-ground, the explosion in the background. It lifted it from its

documentary feel into something that heightened the film.

Full Metal Jacket

Jan Harlan, producer

There was no need for Stanley [Kubrick, director] to research military form as he did for *Barry Lyndon* – the soldiers in Vietnam improvised. The abuse of young men was the key aspect that interested him. Even 2,500 years ago, the Spartan armies succeeded in turning boys into fighters. We hired real-life marine drill instructor R. Lee

Ermy as a technical adviser. He contributed greatly to this symphony of obscenities and ended up playing the part himself.

Stanley didn't want to shoot too far away from home, so the derelict Beckton Gasworks in east London were ideal. We took down the industrial towers and made the site look more like a bombed-out part of Hué city: adding French Indochinese shutters, Vietnamese billboards, fire and smoke, plastic shrubs, and palm trees imported from Spain. Filming the moment of impact of bullets is a big deal: costly and very time-consuming, since the explosives are hidden in the wall behind "aged" plaster and wiring. Repeats take days of preparation. The big run against the buildings in the sniper scene, with many simulated hits, was done only once, carefully prepared over many days.

Working at filthy Beckton was not fun and Stanley did it as fast as he could. Speed was not his forte. Nor was it Vermeer's. The sniper scene took several takes, the actors lying in the mud, but it's all there to set up the moment when [Matthew Modine's character] Joker responds to the sniper's plea: "Kill me." This is the moment of truth behind all the macho talk and joking; it needed to be dramatically prepared to rope the audience in.

Apocalypse Now

Doug Claybourne, production assistant (later first-unit AD)

The movie was a bit like a war. Every time someone would quit or get fired, I would get promoted. I had expected to be there [in the Philippines] for eight weeks, but ended up staying a year. I had been stationed in Vietnam [during the war], refuelling jets in Chu Lai, but wanted to see more of the country so I volunteered to fly as a Huey door-gunner on my off time. That's why Francis [Ford Coppola, director] hired me as a "helicopter wrangler" for the famous Ride of the Valkyries sequence, which we filmed in April and May 1976.

It was a logistical nightmare. The helicopters that the Filipino government lent to us would land on a school field at our base camp in Baler, about 150 miles northeast of Manila. The prop guys would come over and paint American insignia on them, because they were being used to fight a civil war the rest of the time. I would make sure they were fuelled, had M60 machine guns fitted with blanks, and we had extras sitting in the gunner spots. We would ask for ten and often five would show up; I would radio the set and they would do whatever scene they could with that amount.



From bottom left: scenes from *The Hurt Locker*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Black Hawk Down*, and Stanley Kubrick filming *Full Metal Jacket*

Aerial coordinator Dick White, who had been one of the first Cobra gunship pilots in Vietnam, flew a small Loach helicopter, talking to the Filipino pilots; I was watching down below with an air-to-ground radio. Dick and I would be saying to the helicopters, "lower, go left, go right", trying to get them to stay in the frame, in a horizontal 2:35 format.

The scene where Willard shoots the Vietnamese girl on the boat gave me a

déjà vu experience. The actors had recently arrived as Vietnamese boat people, yet seven years earlier I had been in their country, supposedly killing them. Now I was making a movie about it. That juxtaposition was very strange for me.

Saving Private Ryan

Ian Bryce, producer

Steven [Spielberg, director] had been working on two other movies and turned up on set just two days before we shot. Later, he told me why. "When those men and boys had the ramp go down on the landing craft and jumped out in the water, they didn't know what they were doing." He wanted to shoot the Omaha Beach invasion in the same frame of mind. The graphic nature and detail of what transpired in war, and in particular that landing, had not really been done before. Film-makers previously hadn't necessarily believed that people would – or could, with the ratings system – watch something that harsh.

"Every American actor has played a soldier at some point. They all know the old 'I've got your back' routine"

You can't shoot on the real Omaha Beach in Normandy. There are also some power plants along that coast that we would have had to paint out with VFX in a lot of shots. After

scouring pretty much the entire UK without any joy, we went to Ireland and found this beach in County Wexford that had a wide expanse of sand where the incoming tide didn't fully engulf the beach, so there was room to work. From January 1997 until we shot in mid-June, we excavated and dressed the beach, as well as building the infrastructure to get the 750 Irish army reservists we used in the battle sequences housed, fed and watered. We called it the "sausage machine": you got pushed in at one end and came out the other battle-trained, to some extent.

Tom Hanks, Tom Sizemore and the others went to boot camp for a week, too – out in the woods. It rained horribly during that whole period and I was very concerned that they might get sick. They were in Second World War tents, eating rations and everything. But it worked out great: they were weathered by the time they got back in. The shooting went very smoothly. It was one of those movies that just had a sense of something special going on. One veteran approached me later and all he said was: "I was there that day and that's how it was. I haven't been able to talk to my family about it for 50 years, and now I can."

A longer version of this article first appeared in The Guardian © Guardian News & Media Limited 2017.

THE WEEK CROSSWORD 1043

An Ettinger Croco ebony key case and two Connell Guides will be given to the sender of the first correct solution to the crossword and the clue of the week opened on Monday 27 February. Send it to: The Week Crossword 1043, 2nd floor, 32 Queensway, London W2 3RX, or email the answers to crossword@theweek.co.uk. Set by Tim Moorey (www.timmoorey.info)



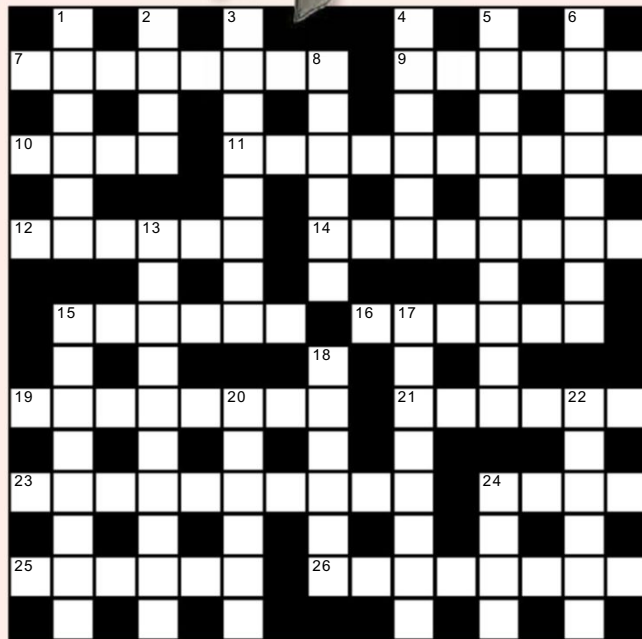
This week's crossword winner will receive an Ettinger (www.ettinger.co.uk) Croco four-hook key case, which retails at £94, and two Connell Guides (www.connellguides.com).

ACROSS

- 7 It could be fine for putting a group of car owners together (4,4)
 9 Charm of a stubborn person with end in sight (6)
 10 Initially dunce towards the back is this? (4)
 11 Laughing uncontrollably at the theatre? (2,8)
 12 No time for Italian cars, company's a flop (6)
 14 Cruise perhaps in Med and all relax regularly at sea (4,4)
 15 Times journalist is removed (6)
 16 Former F1 driver caught going the wrong way around European resort (6)
 19 Tube not working? Shut up! (4,4)
 21 Japanese plant used to be a bit docked (6)
 23 Financial security say, teeters precariously (4,6)
 24 Pressure on investment in Italian city (4)
 25 River always flowing in opposite directions! (6)
 26 A hirsute eccentric found in reference books (8)

DOWN

- 1 African very connected with an African country (6)
 2 Bond's keeping up fine criminal image (1-3)
 3 Cast iron otherwise seen outside Danish city (8)
 4 One in a den trembling before lion's entry? (6)
 5 Alcoholic drink reinforces last bits of story (5,5)
 6 Abuse engaging Frenchman in retreat for top brass (8)
 8 Do boys love embracing maiden such as this! (6)
 13 Excess fat in the motoring business (5,5)
 15 Times are changing in the airline business (8)
 17 A modern network can get you excited (8)
 18 Kick out Austen novel (6)
 20 Revealing sexuality shown in trip? (6)
 22 Eatery using gravy? About right (6)
 24 Leaders in Egyptian army boring Prince William maybe (4)



Name _____

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Clue of the week answer: _____

Clue of the week: They may be in for supper but then out all night (5, 5 first letter F) *Rufus, The Guardian*

Solution to Crossword 1041

ACROSS: 1 Chelsea tractor 9 Leaves off 10 Rotor 11 Ensur 12 Enchilada 13 Tears into 16 Latch 17 Trump 19 Layperson 21 Extremist 23 Pubis 25 Atria 26 Indonesia 27 Friendly debate

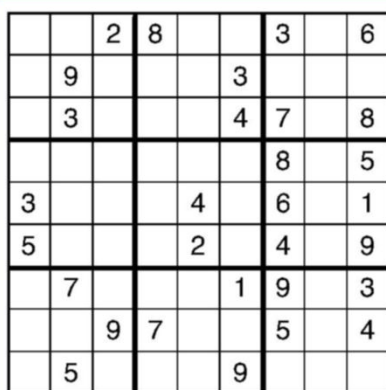
DOWN: 1 Called to the bar 2 Evans 3 Seeders 4 Alone 5 Refectory 6 Cordial 7 Outcastes 8 Breathing-space 14 Adulterer 15 Nullified 18 Peerage 20 Expense 22 Today 24 Basra

Clue of the Week: Err with maid getting knocked up? Did the honest thing maybe? (7)

Solution: MARRIED

The winner of 1041 is John Waite of Bradford on Avon

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Sudoku 587 (super-difficult)

Fill in all the squares so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9

Solution to Sudoku 586

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

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Return on £1,000 invested	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	Since launch* - 31.12.16
CRUX European Special Situations Fund	£1,214	£1,374	£1,397	£1,751	£2,142	£2,390
Sector average : IA Europe ex UK	£1,197	£1,261	£1,263	£1,581	£1,863	£1,725
Index : FTSE World Europe ex UK	£1,164	£1,272	£1,260	£1,589	£1,892	£1,763
Cash : Bank of England Base Rate	£1,004	£1,009	£1,014	£1,019	£1,024	£1,036

Source: FE, bid-bid, £1,000 invested. Cumulative performance, to 31.12.2016. *Launch date 01.10.09.

Active managers who invest in their own funds

Active investment management requires confidence, courage and commitment in every investment decision, something the managers of CRUX's European Special Situations Fund have plenty of.

They are also committed to aligning their investment aims with that of their clients by investing meaningful amounts of their own assets in their funds.

As you can see from the table above, it's an approach which is delivering strong performance and over the years they have achieved an impressive track record.

The Fund has comfortably lapped the index and most of the tracker funds that follow it, over every time period shown in the table above. So if you're investing in Europe put yourself on the podium with active asset management, not in the slow lane with a passive investment.

Past performance is not a guide to future returns. The value of an investment and any income from it are not guaranteed and can go down as well as up and there is the risk of loss to your investment.

Consult your financial adviser, call or visit: 0800 30 474 24 ★ www.cruxam.com

CRUX
ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Henderson European Special Situations Fund was restructured into the FP CRUX European Special Situations Fund on 8 June 2015. Any past performance or references to the period prior to 8 June 2015 relate to the Henderson European Special Situations Fund. This financial promotion is issued by CRUX Asset Management, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority of 25 The North Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 5HS. A free, English language copy of the full prospectus, the Key Investor Information Document and Supplementary Information Document for the fund, which should be read before investing, can be obtained from the CRUX website, www.cruxam.com or by calling us on 0800 304 7424. For your protection, calls may be monitored and recorded.