



BUILD YOUR OWN LEARN HOW TO CONSTRUCT A WIND TURBINE see inside

Last big super-store shuts its doors

DAVID BOYLE

THERE were tears as well as cheers as the last of the giant superstores shut up shop for the last time, after Tesco-Virgin managers announced their last outpost must close.

"It is the end of an era," said shopper Edith Thomas, 68, cramming her last shop into her cycle-trailer outside the store, near Berwick. "I feel like I've been shopping here my whole life."

A handful of demonstrators were on hand to protest against the closure, which was announced late last night. They sang 'We'll Meet Again' and other nostalgic songs until far into the night. A Tesco-Virgin spokesperson said that the style of shopping was no longer economic.

"We have been as loyal as we can to customers, but the time has come. Fuel costs are too expensive to supply the store and too expensive for our customers too."

Tesco-Virgin was once the biggest name in UK retailing, building a stranglehold over high streets and out of town stores after a series of controversial takeovers and mergers beginning in 2012, swallowing up most of the best-known brand names in Britain.

Recent years have seen a marked decline in the company's share price as store after store was forced to close. They continue to have a strong online presence at www.tat-uk.com

Protesters say they will continue to honour the company name as a piece of UK heritage, but Berwick

council leader Geoffrey Sullivan said that the site of the last store will be demolished and turned into homes with small-holdings.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that this will be the site of the government's 150th new eco-village, which will be self-sufficient in food and fuel.

Only shutters were visible this evening, but souvenir hunters have removed most of the wire trolleys that used to be such a ubiquitous aspect of British urban life.

Local food registrar Jemima Potts said she was angry with the company for such a sudden announcement. "We may have months now when this site is unused, when there could easily have been a better handover," she said. "The danger is that squatters will move in and grow any old stuff on the site."

There remains controversy about the fate of the old Tesco-Virgin depot on what used to be the M1, which has now been vacant for five years seeking a buyer. A bid by British Cabbage plc to turn it into greenhouses was rejected in January.

■ Patriotic songs at closure of last Tesco-Virgin, but managers say its just old-fashioned



BACK UNDER SAIL

Tall ship: the Chinese vintage ship Beijing in full sail as it arrived in Portsmouth Harbour yesterday, ready for the annual Atlantic race between sailing vessels old and new. To qualify, ships must use wind alone to make the crossing. Other enhancements, like solar or fuel cell technology are forbidden for the race.

Carbon court opens in Paris

ANDY WIMBUSH
Legal correspondent

THE new United Nations Climate Court opened in Paris and shocked observers by naming the international Formula One company as defendants in their first action.

Prosecutor Jean-Paul Mercredi claimed that Formula One bosses had "flouted international efforts to reduce climate-changing fossil fuels" and that they were "revelling in a juvenile fashion at the damage they are doing to humanity".

The Climate Court was set up by the UN a year ago and still has no powers to enforce their decisions, but they can charge people and organisations they believe are undermining human efforts to stave off global warming.

It is still unclear whether these indictments will have any effect, but observers believe they will make it harder for companies charged in this way to raise money and to operate.

Formula One chairman Karl Schpeed has announced that he will not be attending the court.

"I will not be represented," he said. "This kangaroo court has no jurisdiction over me. Our sport certainly uses petrol, but we pay a considerable amount in taxes and we give pleasure to millions of people."

At a briefing in Paris after the hearing, the prosecutor's office set out the case against Formula One, claiming that every Grand Prix raises the sea levels by 0.001cm.

A source close to the prosecutor's office says that the court plans to broaden their scope, and will be indicting companies that have played a role causing climate change at any time since the beginning of the century.

OBITUARY

Branflake's space burial tragedy

RICHARD Branflake, one of the leading entrepreneurs of the fossil-fuel consumer age, has died aged 78 in a tragic accident during a publicity stunt to launch his latest controversial venture, Vergin Burials in Space™.

Branflake was known to be eager to recover from the era-defining collapse of his space tourism enterprise Vergin Galactic.

Witnesses saw Branflake trip at the launch, mistaking a hologram of young models for the real thing, and fall into a demonstration burial pod which then automatically launched.

The Interdependent

We've never had it so good, have we?

THE NEWS yesterday that the top team of wind turbine builders, award-winning Gateshead United, was led by a former hedge fund manager demonstrates just how much the world has changed over the past generation.

Decades ago, the money markets were run by the elite. Now we hardly notice them, and the business supplements that used to grace the pages of this and other newspapers are now energy supplements. In many ways the role of money, which our parents watched with such fascination at the turn of the century - as the markets rose and fell so disastrously - has been taken over by energy.

Are we better off as a result? The Prime Minister's speech yesterday certainly suggested that we are and, with some provisos, we agree. It certainly makes the manufacture of wealth more certain if all you have to do is put up a turbine or a solar panel. We no longer have to insure, in quite the same way that our parents had to, against market collapse.

On the other hand, the work involved is tougher, and the exhaustion of working until we are 75 - when even the agricultural work camps are beyond us - provides an edge to life which our parents also never knew. We look forward, as the Prime Minister does, to the success of our efforts to keep the climate human-friendly.

Bring back luxury

YES, we lead saner, healthier lives, but there are increasing numbers among us - especially among the young - who yearn for the lost luxuries of the past.

There were reports last week that a group of students dressed in suits and dresses in provocative 1990s style, throwing old-fashioned banknotes around in the street, had been pelted with bottles by passers-by. We unhesitatingly condemn this kind of Puritanism.

Many of us still remember with affection the days of sports cars and designer frocks and there is a place in all our lives for a little luxury and, dare we say, decadence.

WEATHER



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SPECIAL READER'S OFFER

Jamie Oliver Compost Toilet
See tomorrow's edition of The Interdependent

Grosvenor Square nightingales will be singing again

CORRINA CORDON
Agricultural correspondent

THE last exclusive London square has now gone under the plough, after the failure of last ditch legal action by residents of Grosvenor Square and the Grosvenor Estate.

The final legal obstacles to turning Grosvenor Square over to agricultural use were overturned in the high court last week, and as expected the tractors arrived at dawn this morning.

A handful of local residents greeted their arrival with placards, but within an hour the square had been ploughed over.

A last minute compromise with the Grosvenor Estate preserved the flowerbeds along the edge of the square, but the rest of it will be parcelled up into allotments for local people.

The former Rolls Royce car showroom, which has been empty since 2015, will be used as a farm shop. It is expected that at least 350 allotments will be created by the new space, bringing the number in London now to over 250,000.

"It is an absolute shame," said local resident Jasmina



Tractor power: the agricultural machines move into Grosvenor Square.

Wallis-Stewart, 79. "This square has been a park for centuries and has remained sacrosanct in that time, just for the occasional wedding reception. It made me weep to see the tractors coming in."

All London's squares are now used for agriculture, as are most of the parks. New forests in the east of London open up the possibility of new parks and green spaces.

Jasper Sutton, a member of

the government's Allotment Advisory Group, said he remained "very concerned" at the lack of progress creating allotments in other parts of the country, especially in the Scottish Highlands.

There had been expectations that Grosvenor Square would be closed in as greenhouses, but the Allotment Advisory Group has said that no announcement will be made about this until the Spring.

Campaign draws line in sand

LINDSAY MACKIE

A NEW conservation lobby group has been formed to protect the seafronts of Britain's most developed resorts, threatened with a new wave of high rise hotel development.

The founder of Keep Seaside Special, Algernon Cox, says he already has more than a hundred celebrity endorsements.

"Unless we act now to rein back on this over-development, our seaside resorts are going to look like Benidorm in the bad old days," he said at the campaign launch in Whitby.

Whitby has been the centre of growing controversy after the tenth high rise hotel was given planning permission on the seafront in just six months.

"The planning authorities seem to think that, as long as the new hotels generate all their own electricity, that it doesn't matter how many there are, but that's nonsense," he said. "It is time we took action to keep the traditional British seaside resort as it used to be."

The campaign follows growing concern at the weight of numbers visiting Margate, Worthing, Whitstable and Climping, now that foreign travel is so expensive, and the high prices that



All too much: Whitby seafront as it is today - but what does the future have in store?

land near the sea can now fetch.

One site in Whitby is said to have fetched a record £32m at auction last month.

"Our own people are being priced out of the seaside," said Whitby mayor Ryan Collins. "They are being pushed aside by energy speculators. It's disgusting. People just want an inch of sand. It's not a lot to ask."

Anger as Munny.com fraudster appears in the dock

LOCAL currency fraudster Anatole Spratt has been sentenced to six years agricultural service following the collapse of his internet currency Munny.com

Spratt looked shame-faced in dock, confronted by hundreds of those he had defrauded who crowded into the public gallery to hear him sentenced by Mr Justice Kotze.

Munny.com was one of the fastest growing complementary currencies, and was downloaded onto mobile phones by an estimated 1.5m people in Britain and Europe.

It was widely recommended by financial advisors because of Spratt's boasts that it was based on the value of potatoes. But rumours that his own store of potatoes was actually non-existence caused panic offloading of the currency at the end of last year.

Spratt asked for ten similar offences to be taken into consideration. The location of his agricultural service is being kept secret for fear that he will be targeted for revenge attacks by those who lost money as a result of his fraud.

Fudge goes to No. 1 spot with veg song

THE latest internet boy band Fudge has gone to the Number 1 slot in the British Cabbage Pop Charts with their song *You Insulate My Heart*.

It is their first Number 1 hit, and the track was downloaded 78,019 times in the first day of release.

Fudge are famous as one of the top virtual bands in the country. They exist only in cyberspace thanks to creator Gerald Gheek.

You Insulate My Heart is believed to be the first song about insulation to reach the Number 1 slot.

Remember the floods of 2013?
See WEATHER WATCH page 4

Another drain to get the river treatment to generate micro-hydro

STEWART WALLIS

LONDON'S lost river Effra is to be dug up and brought into the open air for the first time for nearly two centuries, to provide energy for parts of the south east of the city.

The Effra is the third of London's forgotten rivers to be re-discovered. The River Fleet now flows down what used to be London's Farringdon Road, providing a fast method of transport from the outskirts of the city to the centre.

Other former rivers are being rediscovered in Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Cardiff.

The Effra rises in the hills south of London and flows underneath Brixton and other suburbs. Work on rebuilding the river will begin in the summer and is expected to take two years. The first micro-hydro plant is expected to be generating electricity in 18 months time.

Local residents associations have already threatened legal action, and there are fears of extra flooding risk. But an Environment Agency spokesperson said that their fears are "misplaced".

"We can expect that those living alongside the Effra will find, like those living alongside other former rivers, that the value

of their homes has been enhanced and that new business ventures are possible that were not before," they said.

There is now a thriving salmon fishery in the River Westbourne, which now flows overground across north London. Salmon have been visible leaping out of Cardiff's River Taff for a quarter of a century.

The search for old rivers is continuing round the country. The Local History Coalition, which is capitalising on the rediscovery of forgotten knowledge, has opened new branches in 22 new towns this year alone.

Chair Maximilian Stephens said: "History is now back in fashion, and you can make a good living from it too. Our members are not just tracing forgotten rivers, they are teaching forgotten craft and agricultural skills as well."

■ 'History is back in fashion and you can make a good living from it too'

I was wrong, says former PM

PERRY WALKER

BRITAIN'S longest surviving former prime minister, Tony Blair, has admitted that he delayed the nation's response to a changing climate.

Cardinal Blair, who is now one of the Pope's most senior advisors, says that a fatal attraction to damaging new technologies like GM food and nuclear energy - both of which centralised decision-making into the wrong hands - deluded him during his premiership, which ended in 2007.

"I have to admit that I was slow to understand what was going on," said Cardinal Blair, speaking in a BBC documentary to be televised tonight. "I am glad to say that I am fully supportive of the good work so many people have done to ward off human disaster. God is on their side."

Blair was criticised at the time for his disastrous invasion of Iraq and he joined the Roman Catholic church shortly afterwards.

The documentary, *The Forces of Conservatism*, interviews a number of key

figures in British life three decades ago, and asked them why they were so slow to respond to the crisis.



Blair: I was wrong.



Fair wind: wind turbines on the old Heathrow site: they are now providing energy for part of west London.



Breath of wind for Heathrow

VICTORIA JOHNSON

THE next generation of wind turbines and solar panels take shape on the old runways at the former Heathrow Airport.

It has been five years now since the last plane took off here, and now the tarmac runways of Heathrow power much of south west London. But the old days of small-scale wind power is over and the next generation is taking its place.

Heathrow began life requisitioned as a bomber base at the end of the Second World War, and burgeoned to become one of the world's busiest airports. Its demise followed the rejection of plans for a third runway after legal action by local authorities and environmental groups.

Heathrow is now one of the foremost examples of quad-power, where all the by-products of energy generation are put to use, including heat, light and water.

One crumbling Boeing-747 is kept on site as a reminder of what Heathrow used to be. It is now once more surrounded by the market gardens that used to dominate the area a century ago.

"Everyone can be proud of this story, because it belongs to all of us." ★★★★★ Financial Times

"Reminds you of just how much we've achieved." Film Review

"Your children must see this film!" ★★★★★ Empire

FERRY WALKER FILM
THE GREAT TRANSITION
the tale of how it turned out right

SCHUMACHER PICTURES PRESENTS "THE GREAT TRANSITION" A RUSKIN MEDIA PRODUCTION ROB HOPKINS VANJANA SHIVA CAROLINE LUCAS KEVIN ANDERSON
DIRECTED BY PHOTOGRAPHER RUTH POTTS RECORDED BY DAVID EGYLE AND ANDY WIMELSH PRODUCED BY ANDREW SIMMS WRITTEN BY FERRY WALKER

Carrots on the line

Banstead's team head for European victory in the Dangerous Veg stakes, despite official disapproval.

By Andrew Simms

ENGLAND's Dangerous Veg team is in line for the European title for the first time, after winning a vital semi-final last night.

The Dangerous Veg game, only five years old, now has a televised following of anything up to five million in the UK alone, despite complaints from some commentators that it is "slower than cricket".

Team captain Anna Banstead swept into the lead last night, after her winning carrot - grown on a rocky outcrop of the Giants Causeway - won the support of more than half the compuTV viewers at home.

"It was a tough moment," she said. "Right up until I saw the scorecard I wasn't sure we were through, but I'm absolutely over the moon and very proud of my team."

Anna Banstead was a former compuTV presenter before she got involved with the only dangerous sport to involve growing vegetables. "I grew a cauliflower half way down one of the cliffs at Lyme Regis," she said. "After that I was just hooked."

Her victory was in doubt when the French team last year revealed a patch of onions grown in no-man's land between Israel and Palestine, but this was eventually ruled as 'foul' on appeal.

"It was clearly in breach of the no war zones rule," said Anna Banstead. "But there were objections from the French that, just because it was an area of international military tension, that didn't make it a war."

The growth of Dangerous Veg now seems to have an international following. CompuTV rat-



Winning veg: England's Dangerous Veg team is in high spirits after a memorable semi-final last night.

ings soared after the accidental death of former England captain Ralph Leaf, tragically run down on the West Coast Main Line while tending a patch of cabbages.

Official disapproval of the sport, which has been condemned by the Bureau of Health, Safety and Good Sense, has served mainly to increase its popularity. There have been other tragic accidents by amateurs, especially when the finals are televised.

Anna Banstead believes England's prospects are now excellent, thanks to the late substitution of the Leeds onion genius Victoria Cross.

Banstead in come-back after veg blip in last year's warzone foul.

Ten years zero carbon

WALES today celebrates the ten year anniversary of becoming the first zero carbon nation.

Lord Monbiot, of Machynlleth was nominated by the Welsh Assembly and then appointed by the Queen in May 2013. Lord Monbiot led the most ambitious transition programme of its time, declaring Wales a Transition Nation just a few months after his appointment.

In early 2013, the Hadley Centre declared that the devastating floods in south and west Wales in late 2012 were unequivocally due to climate change. Using the new Hadley Centre Coupled Climate Model 4 (HadCM4) for the first time, the centre was able to directly attribute a weather event to climate change.

This news and the devastating impact of the floods which caused over 200 deaths and

WEATHER WATCH

affected over a third of the population resulted in two weeks of protesting in Cardiff, led by the Centre for Alternative Technology and 12 Transition Towns.

The protesters demanded that Wales lead by example and become the first zero carbon nation. The 'Fortnight of Discontent' as it is now known, led the eventual nomination of Lord Monbiot, who celebrates his 66th birthday this year.

"It was the civil society movement that has supported me all the way, and I owe them even more than the planet does," said Lord Monbiot. "Together, they have proved what the human spirit can achieve."

NEWS IN BRIEF

New re-skilling college opens

A NEW college launches today to spread basic knowledge of crop-growing, cooking and pipe-lagging to immigrant groups in UK cities. The University of Re-skilling is the product of two year's negotiation between government and the energy services industry, and aims to equip 10,000 people a year with the skills they need to survive.

Veg gets recognition from Chelsea at last

CHELSEA Flower Show will open this year under its new name Chelsea FAV, the Flower, Allotment and Vegetable Show. There has been considerable opposition to the change of name from traditional gardeners, but the basic changes - the awards for allotments and vegetables - have now been in place for 11 years.

Row over BBC job loss figures

THE last old-style electronics factory has closed in the West Midlands, amidst complaints that the BBC news failed to report the job losses. "All they did was give the figures for the amount of carbon saved," said union convenor Jack Step. "My members are worth more than that." The Sparks Factory has been open since the 1970s but has been laying off staff for three years. "It's the end of an era," said Mr Step.

Asthma Society votes to wind up

THE Asthma Society has voted to wind itself up after an acrimonious annual general meeting in Manchester, bringing to an end half a century of campaigning and research on behalf of asthmatics. "The truth is that the rates of asthma have fallen so sharply over the last ten years that we felt it was time to use what resources we have to do something more useful," said Society chair Jilly Chest.



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IS YOUR JOURNEY REALLY NECESSARY? THINK ABOUT IT!

see inside

Police swoop on carbon bandits

■ 32 held in raids

■ More than one gang involved

■ Old people have been targeted

VICTORIA JOHNSON

POLICE swooped this morning on a gang accused of cheating old people out of their carbon credits. At least 32 people, including men and women, have been arrested in co-ordinated raids on properties in Birmingham, Liverpool and London.

Police say they are still questioning 25 of them, who are held using special powers under the Climate Act, which were specifically targeted at carbon credit fraud.

"This was a particularly heartless crime," said Chief Superintendent Jim Sell, who led the investigation. "We have been on their trail for a year now and there are now a number of people helping us with their inquiries."

Convictions for carbon credit fraud carry prison sentences of up to 20 years under the Carbon Act. One Thames prison hulk has been set aside just to house those convicted of carbon crime.

The raids follow the controversial CompuTV documentary last year which revealed that, although personal carbon credits had been designed to give struggling pensioners an extra cushion - which they could use for heat in the winter - many of them were not seeing the benefits.

The compuTV programme claimed that thousands of older people were being cheated out of



Under arrest: the first police raids on suspected carbon fraudsters taking place early this morning on a house in Glasgow.

■ 'This is a particularly heartless crime', say police

their credits by their children and other relatives.

These raids reveal a more organised attempt. Police sources suggest that these raids are related to only one of a number of carbon fraud gangs, involving doorstep callers purporting to be charity collectors asking for credits.

Backbench Liberal Democrat MP Jack Pavement has introduced a private members bill, due to be debated in Parliament next month,

banning doorstep callers from using carbon credit transfer on the doorstep.

But opponents of the bill claim that the benefits of easy transfer must be defended.

"The fact that carbon credits can be transferred just using mobile phones means that they are much more available to people to use as they wish," said MP Polly Peck. "I am determined to defend the scheme from the technocrats."

Abundance party gets by-election boost

RUTH POTTS
Political correspondent

THERE were angry scenes at the count at last night's by-election in Maidstone town hall, after a shock win for the new Abundance Party.

Abundance candidate Givus Moore took the seat, after two recounts, from the Conservatives in a 56 per cent swing.

Conservative candidate Roger Less was pushed into third place by the Liberal Democrats.

This is the first by-election test for the new Abundance Party, dedicated to ending rationing. Party leader Victor Wallace hailed the victory.

"This is the first nail in the coffin of the government's rationing straitjacket," he said. "One more heave, and we can be free."

Government censors blacked out coverage of the candidate's victory speech. Carbon minister Julius Ryan-Collins said that he had taken the decision because the national emergency required that the Abundance Party should not get more than its fair share of coverage.

"The constraints on us are such that we cannot tolerate too much questioning of our nationally agreed rationing," he said. "The carbon credit system was agreed democratically. We do not have the freedom to unravel it every time there is a by-election upset."

OBITUARY

From Vergin to compost

RICHARD Branflake, once a leading entrepreneur of the fossil-fuel consumer age, has died aged 78 in obscurity on an organic farm in Devon, of the chronic celebrity ailment, non-recognition fatigue.

After losing control of his energy-intensive Vergin business empire in 2012 when the government took radical action to re-engineer the economy, Branflake's hyper-consumerist business style went out of fashion. Deprived of the oxygen of publicity he quickly took on a dishevelled, rambling appearance.

Control
Express

Britain can take it: the PM is right

THE Prime Minister's Edinburgh speech, which was reported on all compuTV channels, was an important statement on the global crisis. He says that "Britain can take it" and we heartily endorse his faith in the British people, forged as they have been into a tough, hardy machine to resist the changes in the climate we see all around us.

Where this newspaper has doubts is about the wisdom of the decision to black out news of what the demonstrators in Edinburgh were actually saying. When we reported the disturbances outside the Scottish Parliament building, we followed other news outlets by blacking out the words on the placards, and we regret the necessity.

We support the BBC's decision to run interviews with the demonstrators, who were critical of import controls and other aspects of the Prime Minister's Austerity programme, and to have their actual voices replaced with those of actors.

This kind of flagrant disregard of all but the letter of the government's Carbon Debate Regulations should be unnecessary, but unfortunately, in today's climate of censorship, it has to be.

The government was right to arm itself with these censorship powers. There are forces out there which would undermine the government's efforts to keep the British way of life alive in these difficult times. But to clamp down on simple dissent, refusing even to engage in the arguments, simply plays into the hands of the enemy within.

The rise of Abundance

WE still live in a democracy, and - at least in the Maidstone by-election - the people have spoken. We may not like what they have said: there is undeniable frustration at the rationing regulations, but a widespread acceptance that this is what must happen. But they have a right to say it.

But rights must go with responsibilities, and we have a responsibility to the nation - to protect our way of life despite the changing weather - and that is the higher good. So although we should tolerate pockets of revolt, and should do so without the heavy hand of government censorship which has been so evident in recent weeks, that does not mean that tolerance should become an end in itself. We can no longer afford it.

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New unit to tackle rationing cheats

CORRINA CORDON
Crime correspondent

CARBON investigations by the police will now be carried out at national level, co-ordinated by a new Carbon Crime Unit of the English State Police.

The announcement was made in the House of Commons today by the Climate Secretary, Charles Shady. The plan had been leaked last week in the Sunday papers but had been denied by sources close to the government.

The plan for a specialist carbon police means that any organised infringement of the rationing regulations will now be reserved for the Metropolitan Police. The unit will have spe-

cial surveillance and arrest powers.

Opposition spokespeople immediately demanded to know whether powers would be taken away from local authorities energy standards officers, whose responsibility carbon crime has been until now.

Former government minister Bert Sack asked the minister to deny rumours that the new carbon unit would be armed as a matter of course. Mr Shady said that information was classified in the public interest.

"I want to provide no assistance to the shadowy spivs and businesses who are cheating the British people out of the weather they deserve," he said. "Anyone who cheats the rationing system is cheating us all."

Ministers: 'eat more spinach'

A PLEA to families to 'eat up your spinach' will be made by the government, launching the campaign in the autumn, to improve the health of the nation.

Food and Survival Minister Geraldine Green has promised that this will be the first of a new generation of government information programmes for compuTV. It will be backed by a major poster campaign in city centres.

"It is time people took more responsibility for getting through the difficult winter period," said Ms Green. "We have put huge resources into growing more spinach. The least the public can do would be to take the benefit of it - but how can they do that if they don't eat enough of it."



Eating green: Daniel Munch, 6, tucks into a plate of government-approved spinach. Daniel will feature on the official posters.

Whitworth Park to be ploughed over

MANCHESTER'S most famous park is to be taken over by the state-owned British Agriculture Group and will be used for farming.

Whitworth Park will close at the end of the summer and ploughing will take place after that. A perimeter fence is expected to provide extra security from September.

There had been hopes that Whitworth Park would escape the fate of the other big parks in UK cities, but British Agriculture Group chairman Sir Augustine Large said that they ran the risk of failing to meet food production targets next year unless they did so.

"Our main problem is feeding the British cities," he said. "Although it is painful to take over a place devoted to leisure for two centuries, it is right that the cities should do their fair share of the work in our state farming effort."

Protests by conservation groups have already been banned under carbon dissent regulations.

The famous ducks will find a new home at the wildlife centre in Slimbridge in Wiltshire. No such home has been found for the other animals.

Other parks facing the axe include Stanley Park in Liverpool. The two football grounds at either end have long since been turned over to crop-growing. On the plus side, many of Brian's most famous parks are now producing food.

Tariff change threatens groups

LIZ SUTTON

THE SURVIVAL of hundreds of community anchor groups is in doubt after changes to the carbon contracts announced by the Treasury.

Many community organisations are funded primarily by the savings they make, either in carbon or in other forms of government expenditure like crime or ill-health.

Those contracts depend on Treasury tariffs for the assumed savings, and these will be cut by ten per cent from the start of the next financial year.

Alexander Polecat, the general manager of East End Education and Health, said that the new tariffs put all their activities at risk.

"My organisation does a great deal to save the government money, and to save carbon on behalf of us all, and we share in those savings to fund our activities," he said.

"If these new tariffs drive us out of business, then it will be very much more expensive for the government in the long run. There will also be much more car-

bon in the atmosphere."

The Development Trusts Association and the Society of British Esco Development do not normally co-operate, but say they will join forces to fight the plans.

"Our most pressing problem is that 'carbon dissent' is banned by the government, and we don't want to fall foul of those regulations," said SBED director Martin Wild. "But we are determined to make our voice heard on this."

10 per cent cut in carbon tariff sparks rage in community organizations

Tariff threat: Alexander Polecat (right) in combative mood, and (below) lollipop supervisors provided by East End Education and Health, whose roles are now under threat.



Minster is safe says oil chief but campaign is reaching boiling point

STEWART WALLIS

YORK Minster will not be moved to extract what is believed to be the last oil reserves in the UK, say energy chiefs - but furious local people don't believe them.

North Sea oil and gas, which proved to be such a bonanza in the 1980s and 1990s, officially ran out in 2018 when the last rig was dismantled.

But it has long been believed that some of the final reserves might exist underneath the mainland. Oil experts believe this may be the last find in the UK.

"The fact that it has come to light under York Minster is a considerable inconvenience," said Climate Secretary Charles Shady, at a London press conference. "But we will use all the engineering ingenuity we possess, and there is no need to move the Minster to extract it."

The oil is too valuable to be used for UK energy, and would anyway be restricted by carbon regulations. It will be sold on the world market.

The Dean of York, the Very Rev Jemima Mbeki, said that negotiations with the government had been continuing for two months.

"We have not yet reached agreement, but we believe we can," she said. "We believe the inconvenience is worth the resources that the government will be making available. We have been assured that there is no threat to the Minister itself."

Local campaigners are furious at the scheme and say they do not believe the government.

"The assurances are not worth the paper they are written on," said local campaign chair Deirdre Dreadful. "We believe this is a smokescreen for plans to move or demolish the cathedral."

York Minster is 'considerable inconvenience,' says minister

Say cheese, says Sophie at a cost



I just like cheese: Sophie Lactose and her slice of Cheddar.

FARM worker Sophie Lactose has blown her whole monthly carbon budget on a 500g slab of old-fashioned Cheddar.

"I just like cheese," says Sophie, 27. "I miss the taste horribly. I don't see why I shouldn't eat it, and when it was my birthday, I thought 'why the hell not?'"

As well as becoming a luxury in recent years since the drift away from dairy farming, and the import rationing regime, cheese also takes a great deal of carbon.

"I don't care that this cheese comes from Italy," she says. "I know it's selfish of me, but you need to have luxury once in a while."

Sophie says she is relying on her parents to feed her and provide her with carbon ration units for the rest of the month.

The British Cheese Association is using Sophie to publicise their Cheese Nostalgia Weekends, which start in the spring.



Not moving on: after only a millennium in one place, the medieval York Minster building is not being moved to make way for drilling equipment, now that Britain's last oil reserves have been detected underneath, but campaigners are still furious.



In the wind: wind farms can now be built in beauty spots.

Wind farms set for beauty spots

ANDREW SIMMS

WIND farms will now be allowed anywhere where anybody is prepared to build them, following government announcements that they will be exempt from planning legislation.

This has been virtually the case now since wind farms, and other renewable energy installations were given precedence over local objections in the 2019 budget.

But the new announcement goes further and now covers any land except crown land, including national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Previous announcements have been greeted with considerable opposition from conservation groups, but these have now been ruled illegal under climate dissent regulations.

Abundance Party leader Victor Wallace risked arrest by calling the decision a charter for private profit at the expense of the heritage of the nation. We are unable to report his exact words after legal advice.

Prix du Jury Cannes Film Festival Official Selection Venice Film Festival Official Selection Sundance Film Festival

"Heart-wrenching. A story of wartime rationing which speaks to our time." Luke Hare, Film 2027

★★★★★ Interdependent ★★★★★ Herald

YES WE HAVE NO BANANAS

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EDITED BY ANDY WIMBUSH SCREENPLAY BY DAVID BOYLE AND ANDY WIMBUSH PRODUCED BY ANDREW SIMMS DIRECTED BY PERRY WALKER

Lambeth to face Reds

The British Agriculture Group League reaches a crescendo in a clash between Lambeth and Greater Manchester.

By David Boyle

THE British Agriculture Group table tennis trophy looks set to be dominated by a battle to the finish by the two leading teams, Lambeth and Greater Manchester.

The two giants of the table will clash in the New Crucible in Birmingham City Hall next week, following agreement about compuTV rights to the game.

The Lambeth team will be led by captain Jean-Francois de l'Oeuf, who began his sporting career in the final football season before the grounds were requisitioned for food.

Greater Manchester continues memories of the old days of football, and will be playing as usual in the Red and White strip pioneered by their owners Manchester United Sports Clothing Ltd.

The final comes after an energetic season which saw the early ejection of favourites Aberdeen and Rutland.

The British Agriculture Group League is facing serious competition from the private league pioneered two years ago by Australian compuTV magnate Les Work-Harder, which has revived some of the old names of football.

But the traditional table tennis game, rescued by local government in 2021, remains more popular in terms of viewers.

"Table tennis is now the national game, and I'm proud that we are making it possible to thrive again this year," said British Agriculture Group chairman Sir Augustine Large. "I have insisted on a good match for the final and that is what I expect."

■ Table tennis is now our national game, says Augustine Large



Come on you Reds: Greater Manchester team in training at a secret location.

Twelve years since pig summer

WEATHER WATCH

A LITTLE known fact is that the real origin of the European food, energy and water ration scheme that began in the late 2010s was the 20 month drought of 2015/16.

An anomalous circulation pattern caused an unprecedented 20 month period of lower than average rainfall over most of Western Europe.

Insured losses due to subsidence estimated at £2 billion for UK alone. Agricultural losses in the UK were valued at £600m.

Reductions in hydropower capacity through much of Europe led to 600 per cent increase in mean energy prices. French milk yields were reduced by 25 per cent.

At the same time, over 100,000 pigs were slaughtered as watering requirements could not be maintained.



Pigs to the slaughter: one of the side-effects of the weather crisis of 2015/16 was the mass slaughter of pigs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Carbon literacy in curriculum boost

CARBON literacy will get a more central place in the national curriculum as part of its latest review, according to sources close to the Department of Education. Carbon literacy has been compulsory for all pupils from the age of nine since 2025, but ministers have decided that it does not yet go far enough. Exam results have been level for the last three years, and ministers want to counter the rise of anti-ratting opinion, and political groups like the Abundance Party.

Re-open Heathrow, says airport protest

HEATHROW protesters fell foul of the government's carbon dissent regulations when they staged a demonstration urging ministers to re-open the airport. We are forbidden to report the content of their demands precisely, but regulations allow us to say that the demonstration attracted about 500 people - many of them carrying aircraft wings - and disrupted traffic to the Heathrow Energy Centre for about three hours. They are now being questioned by police.

Sellafield sealed off for 10th time

THE former nuclear power plant at Sellafield has been sealed off again after leaks from the nuclear waste dump. Armed police moved in last night when Geiger counter alarms sounded, for the tenth time this year. The increasing radioactivity in the Cumbria area has raised fears that homes in the area will become more difficult to sell. There are already limits on home insurance around former nuclear sites.

ID card defaults rise by 7 per cent

THE number of people arrested for failing to produce a valid carbon allowance/ID card rose by 7 per cent last year, according to government statistics. Carbon allowance/ID cards have been compulsory since 2020, and must be carried at all times. Most people stopped without their card escape with no more than a fine, but some face further investigation under the Climate Refugees (Emergency Powers) Act.

Carless
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DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT





INSIDE: PALM TREE SEEDS NOW YOU CAN GROW YOUR OWN SHADE

Detailed instructions, see inside

New hope for the Anglian refugees

- New pre-fabs launched
- Will be made of glass and straw
- Wolverhampton camp will be first

ANDY WIMBUSH

A NEW generation of pre-fabs will tackle homelessness among British refugees who have moved out of flood-hit East Anglia.

The pre-fabs will be built mainly on the sites of former out of town shopping centres, most of which closed during the past decade.

The government has not yet announced how they will be allocated, but Refugee Agency president Lord Steinbeck said that it would be "on a first come, first served basis".

The pre-fabs have been designed by a special team from the Royal Institute of British Architects, following a compuTV competition organised by the BBC. They are made out of BSG (British Straw Glass), a new material made from recycled bottles and agricultural waste.

The pre-fab initiative is the first major project to be announced by the Refugee Agency since it was launched last year. It responds to widespread fear about the plight of refugees from Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire who have been forced out of their homes by extreme weather conditions.

Ministers hope the new pre-fab communities will relieve pressure on some of the displaced persons camps that now dominate the



New hope for refugees: the Wolverhampton displaced persons camp, outside Birmingham, which will be the first to benefit from the new pre-fab high-rise homes.

Steinbeck: 'pre-fabs will encourage more to leave drowned homes'

outskirts of Birmingham and the northern cities.

Lord Steinbeck said that the new pre-fabs would be rolled out with increasing speed once manufacturing has got under way.

"I hope these new homes - and that is what they are - will encourage those who are still living in such difficult conditions in Norwich and Ipswich to take the risk of setting up house somewhere secure," he said.

The pre-fabs will be manufactured in former car plants in Coventry, but this will be repli-

cated in Glasgow within three months.

There has been some criticism of the high rise design of the new homes, which can be constructed in a week. But RIBA spokesman Damian Bodge said that people should consider themselves lucky to live in such modern designs.

"This criticism is typical of the backward-looking nonsense that architects have to put up with. The lack of windows is an innovative safety feature," he said. "The light comes in via a highly imaginative atrium."

Support website blacked out again

LINDSAY MACKIE
Media correspondent

MILLIONS of users of the social networking compuTV site Supportbook were faced with blank screens for four hours yesterday.

Technicians fought to track down the source of the shutdown, which was traced to a computer worm released by the international terrorist group Climate Rage.

Supportbook now claims at least a third of the UK population, allowing them to build mutually supportive relationships with people and groups in other countries.

Supportbook claims that it has been able to provide support to two billion people around the world, swapping resources and friendship and helping each other out in difficult weather episodes.

The compuTV site is hosted in six different regions of the world, to avoid fatal shutdowns. But users in the UK have been badly hit, from worm attacks and also by frequent electric black-outs.

Black-outs have been increasing during the severe weather conditions that began in the winter.

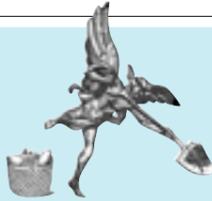
OBITUARY

Branflake hit by re-boot tragedy

RICHARD Branflake, once famous for his Vergin record company and for giving medical science a new condition to name and study, 'compulsive re-branding disorder,' has died aged 78.

In later years, Branflake's profile fell as people found little use for his companies' products and society started making and doing many more things for itself.

In desperation, Branflake was thought to be experimenting on himself with a new Vergin bio-synaptic multi-media fusion transporter. He died when his cleaner's mop accidentally hit the re-boot switch with Branflake in mid-transport between his Vergin Galactic low orbit space craft and a daytime TV studio.

Coping
Standard

It's not enough and it may just be too late

THE pre-fab initiative announced yesterday will be an enormous relief to the hundreds of thousands of families from East Anglia who are eking out an existence in displaced persons camps - and even more for those families living in what is now a precarious existence in the uncertain landscape of East Anglia.

We congratulate the Refugee Agency on their organisation, though there are still question marks over the quality of the homes and the speed at which they can be rolled out.

But there is a deeper matter of concern. The number of homegrown refugees from East Anglia and the other badly hit areas of Britain has been increasing at an unprecedented rate. Three years ago, there were 10,000 of them; now there are at least 20 times as many.

The pre-fabs were designed at an earlier stage in the crisis. The mechanisms for rolling them out assumed a far smaller number. The Refugee Agency itself is resourced only to deal with a fraction of the problem that we face, and every week there are more destructive storms and more homeless people, needing to be housed and fed maybe hundreds of miles from their homes.

A whole generation is grown up in conditions that might have horrified an earlier generation of Britons used to climactic crises in other parts of the world, and who put their hands in their pockets to reach out to help when they could.

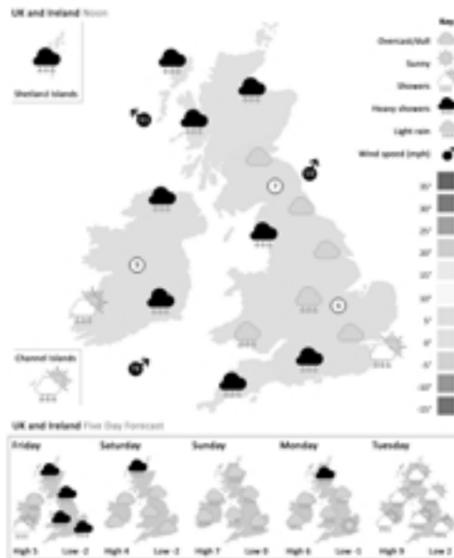
Our fear is that the crisis is evolving faster than our new institutions, and their carefully honed policy, can cope with it. We hope we are wrong, but we may not be - and those who rule us need to realise it quickly if we are not.

Make them pay more

THE discomforts, and in some cases sheer danger, faced by so many of the British population because of the ferocious weather conditions did not come out of the blue. We were warned by the previous generation and those who took decisions at the time largely ignored the warnings.

Those who ignored the signs before it was too late are not all still with us, but many of them are. Some of them are old and infirm and should not be open to public humiliation, but we agree with the latest speech by Refugee Agency president Lord Steinbeck that those who allowed this crisis to happen should pay the price.

WEATHER



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Double the number in oldie evacuation set for the summer

ANDREW SIMMS
Climate correspondent

HOME Office officials have released instructions for the evacuation of anyone over 75 from southern England during the summer months.

This is the second year running that the evacuation has been attempted, and this time officials say the target numbers will be about twice the 200,000 people who were moved last year.

Most of the evacuation will be done by individuals on public transport, making their way to designated collection points over a two week period.

They will already have been assigned lodgings with volunteer hosts who will be able to look after them during the summer. Those who are not well enough to travel themselves, or who need medical care will either be assigned to air-conditioned medical facilities near their homes, or to specially organised medical camps attached to regional hospitals north of Birmingham.

Refugee Agency officials promised there would be no repeat of the disastrous computer errors that marred the evacuation effort last year.

Help the Age Concern director Stewart Auld said that there had been administrative errors last year because of faulty software, and they would be monitoring the success of this year's evacuation.

"I know of a number of



Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye: a few of the older people from Portsmouth testing arrangements for the evacuation this summer and putting a brave face on it.

cases where the IT systems sent couples who might have been married for 50 years or more to separate addresses. I know one case where the wife was sent to Cheshire and her husband, who was in a wheelchair, to the Cairngorms."

■ Up to 400,000 old people to be moved this year

Despite the evacuation last year, an estimated 12,000 people over 70 died in the heat wave in southern England, not including the casualties from the hurricane that hit Bournemouth in November.

A compuTV documentary by the BBC in September told the stories of a series of romances between pensioners who had met because of the evacuation last year.

They include the marriage between Jake and Kylie Lyon, both 86, who met in a commandeered guest house in Whitby last summer.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service, which looks after older evacuees in transit, said that they were aware of at least 25 weddings as a result of last year's efforts.

Sophie has no fear of flying

FLYING campaigner Sophie Lactose has revealed she has been bombarded with hate messages since her celebrated statement that she would "fly for as long as I possibly can".

Sophie, 28, was offered a modelling contract after she earned her notoriety backing flying, even though most airlines have now converted into haulage companies or lost their state subsidies and wound up.

"I was so upset by some of them," she said. "Some of the messages said that I was personally causing the weather crisis. All I want to do is fly."

She says she has been forced to change her mobile phone address and to delete her Supportbook entry.

"I have even been stopped in the street and called an ignorant bitch," she said. "It isn't funny and it isn't clever. But I don't care: I'm still going to fly if I can afford it."

She denied that she had ever received money from European-American Airways.

"All they did was pay my expenses when my dress was ruined in that egg throwing incident," she said.



I'm still flying high: Sophie Lactose shakes off criticism.

Black-outs hit south east

LINDSAY MACKIE
Energy editor

THIS year's black-out season began in earnest yesterday when electricity shortages hit homes between London and Reading.

Hundreds of thousands of homes were forced to face searing heat of over 34 degrees without air conditioning for four hours from 12 noon.

The incident was followed by other black-outs in Bristol, Plymouth, Oxford and a number of other areas in the south Midlands.

Energy spokespeople said they had under-estimated demand for power because of faulty weather forecasts.

Heat and Light Campaign spokesman Fred Jerk said: "We utterly condemn this

incompetence. It threatens people's lives and heads must roll. We don't want a repeat of the fiascos of 2024 and 2025."

In at least two local government districts, stand-by grids failed to provide the necessary power, shutting down hospitals in both places. There was news of looting during the black-out in Plymouth.

Black-outs hit compuTV broadcasting from Paris, after the Droitwich server was brought down in the power cuts.

Off-grid homes and towns, including Woking, escaped without incident, but some found that power was reduced as their local grids came under extra strain.

There were also reports of black-outs in some of the northern cities, as the grid struggled to restore power in the south. Northern city leaders complained that the south east was draining power from them.



Blacked out: commuters in Reading pick their way through the darkened streets.

'Racist' jibe as disturbances and arrests hit new convoy of Dutch refugees arriving in UK

PERRY WALKER
Refugee correspondent

THERE were disturbances yesterday at the arrival of a convoy of buses with Dutch refugees in the refugee transit camp at Aldershot.

Demonstrators shouting slogans greeted 20 buses with chanting and slogans, and there were ten arrests for public order offences.

The demonstrators were condemned later by an alliance of community hubs and refugee support agencies who criticised police for failing to arrest more of the perpetrators.

"These demonstrators were racist, no more and no less," said Flora Macdonald. "We utterly condemn any kind of behaviour that exacerbates a very delicate public mood."

There are now an estimated 600,000 Dutch refugees in Britain, many of them living integrated into the community, but many of them still in transit camps.

"The trouble is that these people, who have lost everything when their own country was overwhelmed, have quite innocently

stirred up the kind of public anger that ought to be directed elsewhere," she said.

This is the latest in a string of similar demonstrations against refugees, especially targeting the Dutch, who have been particularly successful at integrating themselves in the economy.

Refugee Agency chair Lord Steinbeck said it was an "ominous sign for the future".

Britain has been forced under the Paris Treaty to accept their fair share of European Union refugees, though the promised European funds have not yet been forthcoming.

The Pope, Leo XIV, has taken up the cause of Europe's refugees since the Papacy's recent move to Brussels.

■ Ominous sign for the future, says Steinbeck

Cooking cascade from learning hubs

LIZ SUTTON
Education correspondent

A NEW bid to bring education, health and carbon awareness is being launched among European refugee communities, including the transit camps.

A key element of the new project is to provide skills for young refugees, and also to their surrounding UK communities, in growing and preparing food.

The project is the result of an alliance between the South East London Alliance of Community Hubs, the campaign group Stupidity Alarm and the compuTV campaign Comic Relief.

They will be recruiting a new generation of teachers and health practitioners, especially among those made redundant over the past decade during the Dissolution of the NHS and the privatisation of the schools.

They will work in pairs, setting up community classes, teaching people who will then go out and set up classes of their own.

"This is a new version of the Victorian monitor system," said Stupidity Alarm chief executive Marian Shrek-Wilson. "The need

is now so huge, and the resources so small, that we have to use what we have got."

The community hubs have been taking increasing responsibility for teaching basic skills, like window-boxing and simple cooking - as well as literacy and basic maths, often accepting payment in Volunteer Credits.



Catching on: children in Bristol learning how to cook potatoes.



It's a wash-out: farmers in Leicestershire inspect crops after the recent storms. The harvest crisis looks set to exacerbate wheat and other staple prices on the world markets.

Wheat soars to new high on global markets

WHEAT prices have reached a record €120 high on world markets following the wheat crop failure in northern Europe last year - and the recent storms in central England look set to push prices higher.

Supply authorities confirm that this will almost certainly mean ten per cent price rises for bread over the next few months, just as families are already suffering from 50 per cent rises over the past two years.

"This will create genuine hardship," said Geraldine Spokes, of the South East England Alliance of Community Hubs. "We will be appealing to the government to intervene in the markets to prevent this crisis turning into real hunger."

Opposition spokespeople have warned of real hardship after the uncertain harvests of recent years. Wheat is now too expensive to import on a large scale, which is why old-fashioned wheat bread is now so hard to obtain in the UK.

IT'S ABOUT TO GET BIBLICAL
"Disarmingly timely" Met Office ★★★★★

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DIRECTED BY ANDY WINGBUSH BASED ON THE STORY OF MOSES SCREENPLAY BY DAVID BOYLE AND ANDY WINGBUSH PRODUCED BY ANDREW SIMMS DIRECTED BY PERRY WALKER

It's back to basics

Extra security is being laid on for this week's grudge match between Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers – and Beckham is expected too.

By Andrew Simms

TENSION is mounting in Blackburn city centre for the play-off between Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers next week.

It is only a first round FA cup tussle, since the football season was switched to the summer to save energy, but the traditional rivalry between the two teams – since they were forced to share grounds when Old Trafford was first ploughed up – has meant extra security and armed police patrolling the streets.

There is still simmering resentment from old-style football fans since the league went bankrupt in 2020, and for the reduction to five-a-side to fit into temporary city centre playing space.

The measures reduced crowds, set free playing field space for badly-needed crops and cut the demand for floodlights, but the notorious Back to the Shed gang – blamed for recent disturbances in Liverpool and Newcastle – are expected in Blackburn as well, as part of their violent campaign for back to basics football.

Both Blackburn and United have been in the top five in the British Agriculture League since the season began in May, and the FA cup clash is seen by supporters on both sides as a way to sort out issues between themselves before they meet in a formal league game.

Security is also being tightened because of reports that Sir David Beckham will be watching the game, in his capacity as honorary advisor to Manchester United acting manager Bill Ball – standing in for Sir Alex Ferguson, who is now semi-retired.

Ball is short of strikers, after a month of serious injuries, and United will have their work cut out making an impact on Blackburn's formidable defence duo.

There has been speculation that Ball is about to buy the entire Aston Villa team, after their spectacular series of victories over the past two months. He is threatening to revive floodlighting for charity matches and has clashed with football regulators on the issue.

Download the game direct to your head. See page 10



On the touchline: souvenir salespeople set up in Blackburn city centre, ready for the big match that will be taking place in front of them.

Remembering the big flood

WEATHER WATCH

ON 5 January 2015, London experienced the worst floods ever recorded. Thousands of people were evacuated from East London, and the Olympic complex was damaged beyond repair – just two years after the 2012 Olympics.

It began with a perfect storm. On New Year's Eve, a low pressure system moved over most of southern England and the channel causing high winds and a huge storm surge, which coincided with a spring tide.

The unusually high tide, low pressure system, and heavy rainfall resulted in a wall of water which witnesses claimed was over 25ft high. The ageing Thames Barrier I was unable to cope, and

12 years on, how the great flood overwhelmed the old Thames Barrier

work on Barrier II had still not been completed, after it ran into financial problems in 2012.

But the risk of a flood on this scale was not entirely unexpected. The Mayor of London, Piers Morgan, had been slow to appreciate exactly how damaging such an event could be, despite repeated warnings from the Environment Agency. Fourteen years on, the Thames Gateway Memorial Wetland Centre, is all that remains of the ambitious housing development programme.

Sadly, only some of these crucial lessons were ever learned and the consequences are only too obvious today. Maybe it is still not too late even now.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stanley Park to accept landfill

STANLEY Park in Liverpool has now been fenced off following the government announcement last week that it will be used for emergency landfill. Stanley Park is the 16th park to be treated in this way, and is believed to be a response to local government anger that the big parks had been immune from the consequences of the crisis. It is believed that Stanley Park will initially host government reserves of unsold glass for recycling.

Weymouth hit by record heat deaths

WEYMOUTH was worst hit in the October heat wave, with a record 65 deaths in one week, making it the number one hotspot in the UK for heatwave mortality. The next worst place in Britain, Basingstoke with 46 deaths, was in fact subjected to higher temperatures, which has led to questions in Weymouth about why the mortality rate was so high. Weymouth council spokesman David Solar has blamed the age profile of the area, explaining that older people are more susceptible to high temperatures.

Aussies reject UN resettlement levy

UNITED Nations plans to resettle the population of parts of Indonesia, now that tropical areas have been effectively closed, have run into trouble in Australia. Australian prime minister Jackie Underdown has refused to accept the Australian quota decided by the UN Climate Council last week. That means that the Council will have to be reconvened, and it may put the British levy in doubt as well.

Unipart schools to close next week

SCHOOLS are expected to close for the weekend early in south east England because of uncertain weather conditions. Unipart says that their own schools, which include a high proportion in Kent and Sussex, will close next week to avoid a repeat of the chaos that followed storms last November. It means that pupils will be available to help the evacuation of older people from the flood hit areas that was announced yesterday.

SALE



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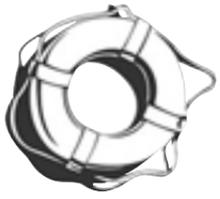
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HOW TO STAY ALIVE BUILDING YOUR OWN BARBED WIRE SECURITY FENCE

Full instructions inside

At least 20 killed in violent new border clashes

■ Anglian Martyrs blamed again

■ These people are scum, says Sadly

■ 'Hereward the Wake' is sought

VICTORIA JOHNSON

SERIOUS disturbances have been reported in the Peterborough area near border posts to some of the Abandoned Districts.

At least 20 are reported killed in clashes near two checkpoints. Reports say that there were at least two simultaneous attempts to rush border guards from the camps in East Anglia.

There were shots and explosions, and - in one instance - CS gas was used when the checkpoint was seriously threatened.

A Tesco Security spokesman said there had been no signs of trouble in the vicinity of their own checkpoint on the Norfolk border, a serious flashpoint in the past.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that the incidents were co-ordinated by elements of the Anglian Martyrs Brigade, which is still active despite the execution of their leaders, the so-called Fakenham Three, in September.

Security Secretary Angus Hardiman said

that the incident was regrettable.

"I am sorry that trouble has returned to the borderlands, but I must emphasise that it was successfully contained with minimal loss of life," he said. "These people must understand that we can't afford to let them in at the speed they want to come."

Mary Sadly, whose border guard husband was assassinated by a sniper in January, said she was appalled that these incidents go unpunished.

"These people are scum," she said. "Don't they understand we have to live as well? My husband was just doing his job, like his colleagues who sound like they have shared his fate yesterday."

Policy towards the Anglian refugees remains contentious, but the repeated disturbances along the border seems to have crystallised opinion against them across all political parties.

A man calling himself Hereward the Wake, who claimed to be a spokesman for the refugees, has demanded a meeting with Major General Oliver Wellcrom, commanding the Eastern District, to discuss what he calls "the systematic murder of my people".

General Wellcrom's office confirmed that a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

■ More deaths in border battle, but still no retaliation against militant refugees



THE WOLVES ARE BACK

Not as nice as they look: wolves which were filmed crossing the Scottish border near Berwick yesterday. It is the third attempt this year by wolf packs to come south. They were later pursued and eliminated by army units. It remains a mystery how wolves came to be re-introduced into the British Isles, but zoologists suggest it may have been a misplaced scheme to tackle the rat epidemic in Edinburgh in 2023.

Six held in motorway piracy conspiracy

LILY SWAN
Travel editor

SIX motorway guards on the M1 have been arrested and accused of corruption and piracy.

The guards, who are still unnamed, are accused of taking bribes from travellers, over and above the security tolls, and preying on those who refuse.

The arrests follow months of rumour and accusation that the motorway guards themselves were among those responsible for the high profile robberies along the Watford Gap stretch of the M1, which remains the only secure north-south highway.

Under the Highwayperson Act, the six accused could face the death penalty, if found guilty - if they ever come to trial.

The six are employees of the private British Motorway Security, which has the franchise for keeping all the main roads safe south of the Spaghetti Junction.

A spokesperson for the company refused to comment on the arrests, saying it would breach commercial confidentiality.

The news follows arrests of 30 other British Motorway Security employees in October, accused of bribery in the Scottish border contracts affair.

Major General Sir Damien Spartacus, commanding the Midlands District, said that no action would be taken against the company.

OBITUARY

Fuel mix-up dooms Branflake

RICHARD Branflake has died aged 78 in a devastating blow to his business ambitions. Against medical advice Branflake had decided to join the long-delayed inaugural flight into space of his new initiative Vergin Galactic.

Tragically, the project team miscalculated the necessary fuel load in a confusion between metric and still-popular imperial measurements.

The Vergin Galactic space craft ran out of fuel once achieving orbit. NASA said they were too busy to help, and everyone else said that, in any case, they had no spare fuel. A campaign has begun to declare the orbiting craft an official monument to the fossil fuel age.



Why we need to respond in kind to the Anglians

IT COMES as a shock to us, and no doubt to our readers too, that the series of outrages at border checkpoints on the Anglian border are continuing. We understand and sympathise with the plight of ordinary families from the region who have lost their homes and are dependent on the food and water so generously given by us. But that is no excuse for killing those who are doing their duty to the nation by keeping out the weight of numbers that would destroy our ability to feed ourselves in these difficult times.

We say that enough is enough. The Anglian Martyrs Brigade is clearly still active and, unless it is resisted, we can only expect it to grow. We will then see a resurgence of their perverted demands and methods.

There is only one language these people understand. For every border guard killed or passer-by assassinated, we urge the government to exact reparations by making an equivalent number of arrests among the refugees. If they can see how their actions are endangering their own, it may provide some check to their excesses.

There is a danger, as we keep being told by the human rights lobby, that behaving in this way will undermine our moral authority. We say: stuff moral authority. This is an unprecedented crisis in the history of our nation, and we must respond.

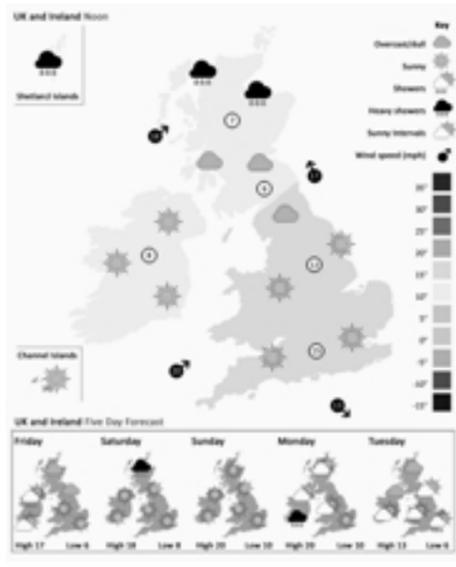
The new pessimism

ELSEWHERE in this issue we review the new film *The Road*, and the controversial role of actor Daniel Radcliffe. The philosopher Lord Mulgan has attacked films of this genre - and the recent obsession with the history of the Dark Ages - as evidence of the 'cult of pessimism'. We agree with him. The news is not good, and part of our historic nation has been abandoned to barbarism and the sea. We believe in England - the nation of Shakespeare and King Alfred - and, despite the global crisis, we will rise again.

But how can we rise again if we obsess about our nihilistic futures? We will face the future when it comes, as we always have, with stoicism and pragmatism. As Oscar Wilde said: "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars".

Mulgan is right: keep your eyes on those stars.

WEATHER



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A BETTER BIT OF BARTER

Use Tesco-Virgin money - every nickel helps

Another night riot at Heathrow camp sparked by copters

RUTH POTTS
Terrorism correspondent

POLICE have quelled another outbreak of violence at the Heathrow Displaced Persons Camp.

Water cannon and CS gas were used yesterday in another riot at the notorious Heathrow camp, which still houses 270,000 people who remain homeless after the Great London Flood of 2026.

Many of them had already been made homeless the previous year when central London was engulfed.

They are angry that the government remains in Oxford, though the ten hunger strikers were persuaded to abandon their demonstration earlier this year after the intervention by the Prime Minister.

He confirmed that it was their intention to return to London, though critics have pointed out that Westminster remains under water.

Camp spokesperson Jamie Perimeter said that the spark for the riot seems to have been anger in the camp over helicopter noise after the agreed 3am limit.

"There is no doubt that the continued presence of the Heliport does exacerbate the situation," he said. "Of course global passport holders must continue to fly, but some kind of compromise must be possible now that Heathrow is also home to more than a quarter



Cause of trouble: the Heathrow heliport keeps us awake, say refugees.

of a million people, many of them children."

The Heathrow heliport has contracted their protection to Tesco Security. A spokesperson confirmed that there had

Business
demands heliport should stay open, despite complaints

been unscheduled flights at 3.30am and afterwards, taking key government and business representatives to catch flights to the Beijing conference on internal security and global growth.

"There was no danger to the flights whatsoever," he said. "The heliport is protected from the camp by three lines of razor wire, plus watchtowers and dogs. English business needs this access to the outside world, and we are committed to keeping it open."



Down but not out: the Sussex mosquito

Ministers hail drop in malaria by 2 per cent

MALARIA cases fell by two per cent over the past year, says the Department of Health.

Health Secretary Joseph Pale-Green claimed the statistics as a major step forward for public health.

"Thanks to the government's malaria campaign, launched in 2025, I believe we are now winning the battle against this scourge," he said.

Malaria only arrived in England in 2022, but within two years it was claiming up to 10,000 lives a year, mainly in Kent and Sussex. An experimental move to put the anti-malarial drug Larium in the water supply in Hastings was blamed for a major rise in reported mental health problems.

It was discontinued, though the Department of Health maintains that this was simply because it was not considered effective.

The legal challenge by the Larium Support Group, demanding government compensation for those affected, is expected to come to court by 2032.

Turnip trouble on the way

ANDY WIMBUSH

THE failure of last year's harvest will put extra pressure on food stocks this autumn - and could mean shortages of basic vegetables.

Prices for potatoes and rice have now risen by 630 per cent since this time last year, though they remain steady for Tesco-Virgin money.

Subsidised government parsnips remain available in parts of the West Country, but are otherwise available only on the black market.

Tesco-Virgin chief executive Sir Augustine Large has promised to make basic bread available, but exotic vegetables like parsnips and peas will only be available through their shopping systems in the nor-

mal way to those who can afford them.

"English shoppers can still expect excellent value," he said. "We will maintain the Tesco-Virgin promise to our customers"

Resources minister Hector Rattlesnake said he was confident that the population will not go hungry this year.

"We have faith in the English kitchen, the English housewife and househusband," he said. "Things are difficult, because of the global crisis, but they are not impossible."

A Tesco-Virgin attempt to grow rice in some of the Abandoned Areas, at a secret site believed to be in Lincolnshire, has been blocked by legal moves by Monsanto-Dupont.

These follow failed negotiations over rights to their rice seeds, which are believed to be the only legal seeds now available.

Exotic veg: parsnips and peas will only be available to registered shoppers, and at the usual prices.



Genetic heritage and knowledge deposited in space thanks to last Chinese satellite launch

LIZ SUTTON

THE unmanned Space Taxi Green Dragon has blast off from its Shanghai launch site in what is believed to be the last satellite launch of the decade.

Space commentators suggest this might actually be the last satellite for the foreseeable future, given that the Chinese Space Agency is now effectively bankrupt.

On board is communications equipment for Tesco-Virgin, and other global corporate, but also a complete copy of Wikipedia and a stash of preserved seeds donated by the world's seed banks.

Their deposit in space is expected to ensure their survival beyond whatever climactic conditions may emerge in the future.

Included on the voyage is a digital version of the complete works of English Literature, which was put aboard thanks to the personal intervention of Tesco-Virgin chief executive Sir Augustine Large.

Green Dragon will return to earth on Thursday and will be mothballed.

The launch follows months of international wrangling about what seeds should be included. The final settlement came down in favour of seeds owned by Monsanto-Dupont.

The former British seed depository, including traditional varieties, which was put under the Arctic ice cap in 2015 was lost three years later when the ice cap melted.

A parallel squabble has been resolved between the government and National Art Collections Fund, which wants copies of the great works of English art deposited in safe deposits near Lake Windermere.

The government has ruled that the mountain deposits are required instead for radioactive waste.

■ Shakespeare, Austen, Dickens and McEwan are shot into orbit for preservation in space.



Into posterity: Chinese rockets blast the Green Dragon Space Taxi into orbit carrying seed and intellectual deposits. The complete works of English literature will also be preserved in space, as a guarantee against catastrophe on earth.

New pill offers beef casserole

ANDY WIMBUSH

NEW flavour beef casserole pills go on sale in Tesco-Virgin tomorrow.

The company is prepared for heavy demand, as there was when the new chicken casserole pills went on sale in June.

The new food has been developed in government laboratories in Aldermaston, and funded by the Tesco-Virgin group. Like other Nu-foods, they revive traditional English dishes that have become too expensive and rely on ingredients that can no longer be farmed here effectively.

Pills provide an equivalent in sustenance and satisfaction of eating a medium-sized beef casserole. Tesco-Virgin advertising is currently emphasising that the pills are "better than the real thing".

"We have been working on something along these lines since the demise of the beef industry," said Tesco-Virgin spokesperson Hilary Capsule. "We are confident that these pills are the perfect solution for busy people today."

Climate clashes set PMQs alight

PERRY WALKER
Political correspondent

THE Prime Minister clashed with the opposition at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday over who should carry the blame for the worsening weather conditions and continuing climate crisis.

To opposition cheers, leader Richard Clever urged the Prime Minister to come clean about whose finger was on the climate button.

"The prime minister has time and time again claimed that this is a global climate crisis," he said. "When will he admit that it arose on his watch, and has reached the crescendo it has on our shores, in a way that has not affected any other nation in the world?"

Government information officers have raised the normal

parliamentary reporting restrictions on the exchange, on condition that the Prime Minister's reply was reported in full (this is on page 26).

Opposition benches groaned when the Prime Minister rose to reply. "Everybody knows in this country, apart apparently from the honourable member, that the crisis was brewed in America and that the package of measures we have in place is not just effective, but is being copied all over the world."

Clever: landed blows on the PM (right) in clashes at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday.



Bring on the machines

There are two weeks ago until the opening ceremony in Beijing, and the English robots are ready.

By David Boyle

PREPARATIONS are now in their final phase for the English team at the Bionic Olympics, which opens in Beijing next month - and hopes are high of gold medals in javelin and hand co-ordination events.

The English top hope is the Tesco-Virgin robot, named after Sir Augustine Large, which is expected to pick up medals in the chess and draughts event.

Tesco-Virgin has revealed that there is now a waiting list for their latest compuTVs thanks to a last minute rush to tune into the opening ceremony.

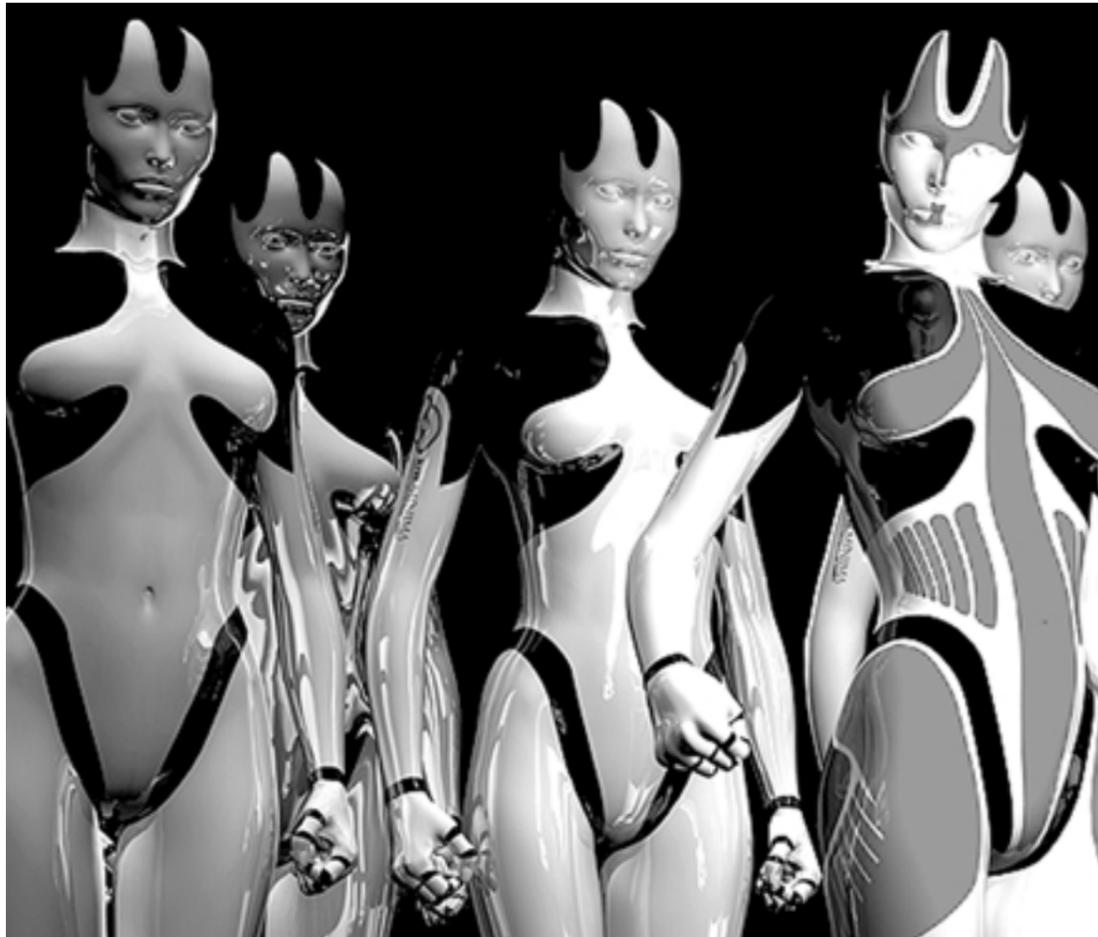
The Chinese authorities have announced that the high security stadium is now complete, and that - although individual spectators will not of course be admitted - there will be unprecedented compuTV coverage as the robots clash.

There is global excitement about the much-hyped clash in the cycling event between the two top Chinese robots, 0.22676893aba and Wei Hei, sponsored by the American giant Coca-Cargill-Toyota.

English bookmakers say that betting is up 12 per cent compared to the previous Bionic Olympics in Bangalore in 2023.

The final rounds of betting will be televised in front of a live audience of up to 60,000 in the Old Trafford stadium in Manchester.

Global passport holders from the international compuTV fraternity are expected in Beijing in force over the next few weeks, and they will be watching holographic versions of the Olympics events in



Our boys in training: the English team is put through its paces.

their own security enclave.

The international terror groups Jefferson Alive and al-Qaeda have been reported to have joined forces for an assault timed to coincide with the Olympics, but Olympics chiefs say that security is tight.

The English team will be hoping to avoid a repeat of the short-circuit they suffered during heats in Ho Chi Minh City in March.

■ Security is tightened on fears of terrorist attack on bionic games events

The great aerosol scandal

THIS year marks the ten-year anniversary of the International Geoengineering Agreement, agreed at the COP-23 climate talks.

Following the terrify predictions of the Hadley Centre Coupled Climate Model 5 (HadCM5), leaders hastily signed up to an ill-thought out agreement, based on highly uncertain science.

QinetiQ-BAE won the contract, and, over a period of three months using hi-tech artillery guns, injected 5 million tonnes of sulphate aerosols into the stratosphere.

While the aerosols produced some of the most colourful sunsets and sunrises, the 'winter warming effect' caused by the absorption of heat radiated from the earth's surface resulted in higher-than-normal pressure over the poles and lower-than-

WEATHER WATCH

normal pressure at 45 latitude in both hemispheres.

This resulted in severe storms during the winters over the UK 2017 and 2018 until the effect of the aerosols eventually subsided.

There were also significant disruptions to the African and Asian Monsoons. The changes to the rainfall patterns over these regions caused the great famine of 2019 that affected over 1 billion people.

To make matters worse, at the same time Siberia experienced higher than average temperatures during these winters which accelerated the melting of the permafrost, releasing 10 billion tonnes of methane into the atmosphere.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear chief plays down fuel losses

ONLY 175,000 kgs of plutonium are now missing, say English nuclear chiefs, denying claims that the losses have been much higher. Pierre Glowworm, chairman of English Nuclear Enterprises, played down fears that the plutonium losses are related to terrorism. "These are purely bureaucratic losses. They show up on the accounts because we do not know exactly here these consignments are, but we are certain they are still in our possession. We take security very seriously."

Budget to increase army payroll again

NEXT week's summer budget is expected to announce an increase in army personnel of another 12,000, to be deployed in the border areas, as well as other new security measures along the major highways. The news has been denied by Home Office spokespeople, but has been confirmed in a new leak from the department which is due to appear in the Sunday papers this weekend.

Horses will need licences for cities

HORSES will need special licences to enter the big cities from next April, according to Department of Transport officials. They claim that clean-up costs are now too high and some means must be found of discouraging horse transport in urban areas. Opposition spokespeople claim that the move will simply price out poorer people from entering cities.

Spartacus to step down in Autumn

THE major-general commanding the Midlands District, Sir Damien Spartacus, will step down in September after 18 months in the job, which includes responsibility for Birmingham and many of the biggest English cities. Sir Damien has been linked to rumours that he will be succeeding Sir Augustine Large in the top job at Tesco-Virgin, but this has been denied by Home Office sources. Sir Damien's crowning achievement has been the pacification of the Wolverhampton refugee camp after last year's riots.

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