



A bear scooped all our biscuits!

More schools forced to close again as virus cases rise

Several schools have been forced to close as Covid figures have surged in Scotland.

At least five primary schools and one high school have had to shut their doors because of the high number of positive cases of the virus among staff members.

The schools are in several parts of the country, and other council areas have warned that staffing levels are becoming a problem.

It comes as a record number of people are in Scottish hospitals with Covid. More than 2,000 people have been hospitalised – the highest number at any point during the pandemic – although only around 30 of them have been serious enough to need intensive care treatment.

On the Isle of Man, Year 9 and 10 pupils at several schools have also been told to stay at home because of staff shortages caused by Covid.

The school closures mean pupils must go back to home learning, as they have had to do during two nationwide lockdowns earlier in the coronavirus pandemic.

All schools had to shut in March 2020 – except to children of key workers – with some pupils returning in the June of that year, but schools did not fully reopen until the new academic year in September.

In the second lockdown, schools had to close again in January 2021, with most pupils not returning until early March.

It meant home schooling for many parents, with children also being taught by their regular teachers over online meeting systems such as Zoom and Teams.

» Break-in at bakery in Italian ski resort

A bear has been recaptured after eating all the biscuits in an Italian bakery.

Marina Valentini had cooked a large batch of biscuits at her bakery in the ski resort of Roccaraso in central Italy.

After she went home, she received a call from her husband to tell her there was a bear inside the bakery.

It had broken a window to climb in and had eaten the entire batch of biscuits, some laid out on a table and the others in an oven with the door left open.

The two-year-old Marsican bear – a very rare type of brown bear – was tranquilised and taken by helicopter to a remote part of a national park.

But the bear, known as Carrito, made his way back to Roccaraso, where he was a popular sight with tourists.

After getting into a fight with a dog, the bear was captured again and is now being cared for at a nearby animal reserve.

Earlier this term, we reported on the case of Hank the Tank, a massive black bear that was breaking into people's homes in California in search of food.

Weighing almost twice as much as a normal bear, Hank was held responsible for as many as 30 break-ins in the Lake Tahoe area.

But DNA tests have since revealed the incidents have actually been the work of three different bears.

Local wildlife officials are now trying to tranquilise and capture the burglar bears and move them to a more suitable habitat.

Police were called when an alarmed neighbour spotted a tiger in a garden in Greater Manchester.

Officers rushed to the scene but were relieved to find only a large cuddly toy sitting on the grass.

Nicknamed Tony the Tiger, the toy was taken to Oldham police station for safe keeping.



WORD

IN THE NEWS

A weekly feature in which we turn the spotlight on a single word which has been used in the news, looking at its meaning and where it came from.

FUEL

Rising prices because of a shortage of gas and oil means *fuel* has become a major news story in recent weeks.

Definition

Materials such as coal, gas, oil or wood which are burned to produce heat or power.

Derivation

From the Old French word *fouaille*, which itself came from the Latin word *focus*, meaning hearth or fire.

Example

The car came to a halt because it had run out of *fuel*.

NUMBER

IN THE NEWS

25

World number one tennis player Ash Barty's age when she made the shock announcement that she is retiring from the sport. As recently as January she won her home Australian Open, her third grand slam title in three years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two young boys have been rescued after being lost in the Amazon jungle for almost four weeks.

Brothers Glauco and Gleison Ferreira, aged eight and six, got lost when they were out trying to catch birds.

The authorities gave up any hope of finding them after a week, but hundreds of local people carried on searching in difficult conditions because of the rainy season.

The boys were eventually found by a man cutting wood more than three miles away from their home village.

The pair had minor cuts and bruises and had only rainwater to drink. They were treated in hospital for malnourishment but were otherwise unharmed.



Smacking or slapping children is now against the law in Wales.

The new law came into effect immediately. It was made by the Welsh government, which has powers in some areas which are independent of the United Kingdom government in London.

Children's rights campaigners called it a historic move, and they are now calling for the same law to be introduced in England as well. Scotland brought in a similar ban in November 2020.

The ban in Wales covers smacking, hitting, slapping and shaking. It means punishing a child physically would count as assault in the same as if an adult was hit by someone.

Four areas have been named on the shortlist from which the UK City of Culture 2025 will be chosen.

Bradford, Southampton and Wrexham have been joined by County Durham – not a city in itself, but this is the first time a local area can enter. Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees are among the county's major towns or cities.

A City of Culture is chosen every four years, with Derry (2013), Hull (2017) and Coventry (2021) the previous holders of the title.

The status is held for a year during which music, arts and other cultural events are staged, often with the aim of increasing tourism. A final choice will be made in May.

The NEWS Shed

The News Shed is a digital newspaper, produced weekly to inform, entertain and educate pupils and to provide resources for their teachers.

It is among a whole host of educational resources at: www.literacysshedplus.com

For contact details please see the website.

NEXT WEEK HISTORY SPECIAL



As well as our last regular edition of term, our latest historic edition will also be available next week, focusing on the Titanic disaster 110 years ago

Out on April 1 – don't miss it

A tall story on capital's streets

A herd of giraffes will hit the streets of Edinburgh this summer.

But animal welfare groups do not need to worry – the group of more than 40 giraffes are 8ft-high sculptures which will be painted in bright colours and designs by local artists.

The display is being put on by Edinburgh Zoo in the hope of increasing tourism to help the Scottish capital's economy recover after lockdown.

The herd – a group of giraffes is also known as a 'tower' – has now arrived in the city and will be painted before the Giraffe About Town trail starts in July.

Similar public art displays have been put on in recent years of painted toads in Hull and bees in Manchester.



Zoo workers with the giraffe sculptures before artists get to work on them

High-flyers need a helping hand

The public is being asked to help protect the numbers of endangered high-flying birds.

Boosting insect numbers in gardens is one of the best ways of helping swifts (pictured), swallows and martins.

Wild About High-flyers is a joint initiative by the Wildlife Trusts and the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Wild About Gardens campaign that aims to boost numbers of the migratory birds.

Swifts and martins were recently added to the UK Red List of endangered animals, having suffered serious declines in recent decades. It is estimated that almost 60 per cent of UK swifts have disappeared over the last 25 years.

Huge declines of insects, habitat loss, and the impacts of climate change – with extreme weather affecting breeding cycles and migration – are the main challenges affecting migratory birds.

Among the tips, the campaign is suggesting creating a bog garden and to

Fact SHED

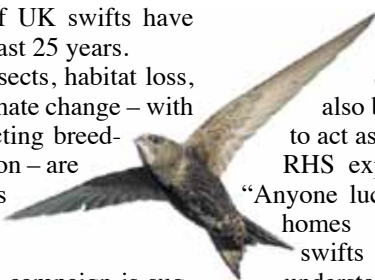
■ Swifts are among the fastest bird in level flight, capable of reaching 70mph (112kph). Peregrine falcons can go much faster, but only in a steep dive.

■ Swifts migrate to Africa for the winter and will fly up to 125,000 miles (200,000km) a year – and can sleep while in the air.

leave a patch of long grass to increase the number of insects in your garden – swifts can catch up to 20,000 insects a day.

Special 'swift bricks' can also be built into a house's wall to act as a nesting place.

RHS expert Helen Bostock said: "Anyone lucky enough to share their homes with nesting swallows, swifts or house martins will understand how magical these birds are – but also how vulnerable."



IN BRIEF

■ Eggs can no longer be described as 'free-range' in the shops because of the amount of time hens now have to spend indoors to avoid catching bird flu.

Free-range eggs come from hens which spend the daylight hours in the open air, but the UK's biggest ever outbreak of bird flu means the hens must spend their time in barns.

Supermarkets and other shops will now have to call their produce 'barn eggs' instead until the virus has been controlled and the restrictions are lifted to allow hens outdoors again.

■ One of the UK's most endangered native species has been given a fresh chance of survival thanks to a newly created refuge on a National Trust estate.

An old cattle drinking hole at Wallington in Northumberland will become the charity's first 'Ark' site for the white-clawed crayfish, the country's only indigenous crayfish.

Often compared to a miniature lobster in appearance, the white-clawed crayfish is so vulnerable that experts fear it may become extinct.

Now the National Trust hopes to give the crustaceans a lifeline by moving up to 100 of them into an 'Ark' site – a safe body of water where it is hoped they will breed.

Flying motorbike takes to the skies!

Picture: Jetpack Aviation

A jetpack company is developing the world's first flying motorbike for sale.

American company Jetpack Aviation started out by building personal jetpacks which strapped onto a person's back, and founder David Mayman demonstrated his device by flying around the Statue of Liberty in New York.

Now the company has built a flying motorbike called the Speeder.

The company says: "The Speeder is jet-powered, very fast, very small and can be either piloted or operated fully autonomously.

"It is the fastest way to get a person or cargo across town, especially into or



An artist's impression of the Speeder in action at sea

out of a high stakes environment, be it military, emergency or disaster."

Originally developed for military or emergency services, Jetpack Aviation says the Speeder could be used to get paramedics to patients more quickly, transport a patient to hospital or remove injured soldiers from a battlefield. Powered by four small jet engines, it could also be used at sea to move equipment

or people from one battleship to another.

Now the company is developing a recreational version of the Speeder and is already taking orders.

It added: "Flying the recreational Speeder will be just like riding a motorcycle but in the sky. Being fully stabilised means minimal pilot training will be required. It will take off from practically anywhere and will fly at over 150 mph."

Beckham lends Insta to doctor in Ukraine

Football superstar David Beckham has lent his Instagram account to a doctor working during the conflict in Ukraine.

It meant the former England captain's 71 million followers on the social media site could watch the doctor's work in a children's hospital in Kharkiv.

The doctor, known only as Dr Iryna, was able to spend the day posting videos showing her colleagues working to treat newborn babies during the conflict.

Former Manchester United star Beckham said he wanted to show the vital work medical professionals were doing to save lives.

Beckham (pictured) and wife Victoria are reported to have donated £1million to the United Nations' children's organisation Unicef to help in Ukraine.

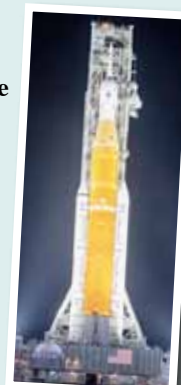


The Nasa rocket which it is hoped will put man back on the Moon has been taken to its launchpad ahead of final tests.

The Artemis programme will first run an unmanned orbit of the Moon later this year, and the aim is for astronauts to step onto the Moon again by 2025, more than 50 years after the last Moon landing.

In preparation for final tests, the huge rocket, with the Orion spacecraft on its tip, was transported four miles from its assembly building to the launchpad at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, a journey which took 10 hours.

Scientists will now carry out a series of tests in a dress rehearsal ahead of lift-off for the unmanned Artemis I mission.



Backlash against the smartphone

Old-fashioned mobile phones are making a comeback as some people are getting tired of spending too much time on their smartphones.

Now known as 'dumbphones', the old-style mobiles can make and receive calls and send text messages but are not connected to the internet so cannot support apps such as social media sites.

Sales of such phones are said to have doubled around the world in the last three years, and one estimate suggests one in 10 mobile phones in Britain are now 'dumbphones'.

As well as being far cheaper than modern smartphones, a lack of apps on mobiles such as the iconic Nokia 3310 (pictured) means people have more time to spend on other activities.



WEEK *This* *in* HISTORY

March 26, 2005

Having been scrapped 16 years earlier, Doctor Who returned to our television screens with Christopher Eccleston (pictured) the latest actor to play the Doctor.

There have now been 13 different actors in the title role since the first series in 1963: William Hartnell, Patrick Troughton, Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker, Peter Davison, Colin Baker, Sylvester McCoy, Paul McGann, Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant, Matt Smith, Peter Capaldi and Jodie Whittaker.



Farmers drilling a well near Xi'an, China, found an underground chamber which led to the discovery of the Terracotta Army – 8,000 life-size terracotta soldiers,

March 29, 1974

130 chariots and 670 horses – in the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

Life-size figures of entertainers such as acrobats, strongmen and musicians were also discovered.

A selection of the figures have since been exhibited at museums around the world.

March 27, 2004

A former Royal Navy ship, HMS Scylla, was deliberately sunk off the coast of Cornwall to create an artificial reef.

The frigate had been decommissioned by the Navy 11 years earlier and was bought for £200,000 by the National Marine Aquarium, which sank it to the seabed 80 feet (24 metres) below the surface.

The artificial reef was intended to attract marine creatures and also act as a site for divers to explore. Within months, sea anemone, scallops, mussels, starfish and sea urchin were found in large numbers and there are now thought to be 250 species on the site.

Divers are no longer allowed inside the ship after accidents in which people have become trapped inside and died.

March 28, 1910

French aviator Henri Fabre made the first successful flights in a seaplane. The Fabre Hydravion was a craft of his own design and he made four short flights in it, taking off and landing in a lagoon near his home city of Marseilles on the south coast of France.

March 30, 1867

The United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7.2million, working out at around two cents per acre. What is now an American state to the north of Canada had been the only Russian territory in North America.



March 31, 1889

The Eiffel Tower was officially opened in Paris. The 984ft (300m) wrought iron tower was designed by Gustav Eiffel to celebrate the centenary of the French Revolution.

April 1

A big date in technology history.

1976: Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne formed Apple Computer Inc, which went on to become the world's biggest tech company.

2004: Google launched Gmail, its free email service, which now has 1.5 billion users around the world.

FOOTBALL



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp and Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola (right)

» Liverpool and Man City face triple tussle

The top two teams in English football are set for an incredible battle on three fronts as the season reaches its climax.

Liverpool, managed by Jurgen Klopp, have already won this season's League Cup after beating Chelsea in a penalty shootout in the final. Manchester City had won the previous four finals and six of the last eight before this year.

Now Liverpool and Manchester City are preparing to battle it out for three more trophies:

■ **Premier League:** Pep Guardiola's reigning champions Manchester City currently lead the table but are only one point ahead of second-placed Liverpool with nine games left to play.

The two sides come face to face at the Etihad Stadium on April 10 in a game

which will have a big bearing on the destination of the title. They drew 2-2 in their first meeting at Anfield in October.

■ **FA Cup:** A week after their Premier League showdown, the two clubs meet again in the Cup semi-final at Wembley. The winners will take on Chelsea or Crystal Palace in the final in May.

■ **Champions League:** In the weeks either side of their league meeting, the two clubs are involved in the quarter-finals of Europe's top competition.

Liverpool play Benfica while City take on Atletico Madrid. If both win, they will avoid each other in the semi-finals so could meet in another all-English final.

Reigning champions Chelsea, who beat Manchester City in last season's final, are also in the mix with a quarter-final against Real Madrid.

HORSE RACING

Rachael rides into record books again

Jockey Rachael Blackmore has written another chapter in the history of National Hunt racing.

The Irishwoman last year became the first female rider to be top jockey at the prestigious Cheltenham Festival, the pinnacle of National Hunt racing, in which horses race over a variety of fences.

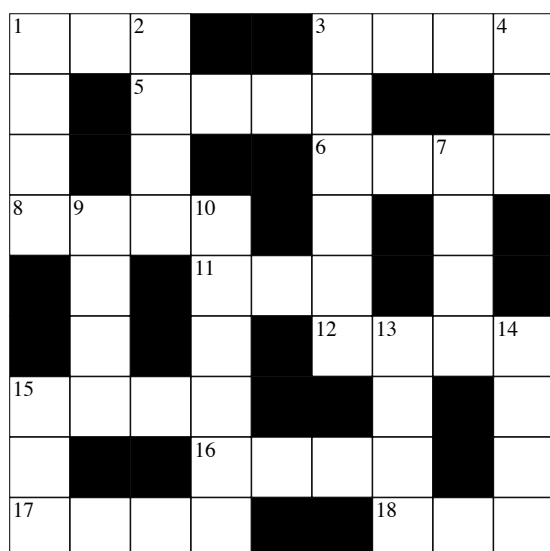
She won six races during the 2021 Festival, including the Champion Hurdle on her horse Honeysuckle.

She topped that a month later by becoming the first woman jockey to win the Grand National, one of the world's biggest races, riding Minella Times over the gruelling course.

And now she has become the first woman to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup, the biggest race at the annual festival. Her win on A Plus Tard was one of three victories at Cheltenham this year, including the Champion Hurdle on Honeysuckle again.

Equestrian sports are among very few in which men and women compete against each other on equal terms, and while race riding has been dominated by men, Blackmore is now leading the charge for women.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 See I down
- 3 Side of a river; where to save your money (4)
- 5 On which grapes grow (4)
- 6 Biblical garden (4)
- 8 County in south-east England (4)
- 11 Long thin slippery fish (3)
- 12 Petrol company whose name comes from initials of old owner Standard Oil (4)
- 15 Chicken enclosure (4)
- 16 Country between Thailand and Vietnam (4)
- 17 Walk through water (4)
- 18 That girl (3)

DOWN

- 1 and 1 across Meat and pastry food, usually from Melton Mowbray (4,3)
- 2 is an ____ number. So is (4)
- 3 Insect with hard shell, often black (6)
- 4 Barbie's boyfriend (3)
- 7 Visual organs (4)
- 9 Repeated sound (4)
- 10 Place of worship in many religions (6)
- 13 Colourful band of material, usually worn diagonally across chest (4)
- 14 Six deliveries in cricket (4)
- 15 Milk producer (3)

Ask your teacher to find the solutions online with the reading comprehension answers