



## Serena's swansong

One of the world's greatest ever sports stars, tennis legend Serena Williams, has called time on her career.

Although she has refused to use the world 'retirement', it was widely acknowledged that her third-round defeat against Ajla Tomljanovic in the US Open in New York was her final appearance.

At the age of almost 41, it meant the end of an amazing 27-year career as a professional tennis player, having played in her first senior tournament at the age of 14.

In that time, she won 23 grand slam singles titles, seven each at the Australian Open and Wimbledon, six US Opens and three French Opens. She was the world's No.1 ranked player for the equivalent of more than six years.

Serena also won 14 grand slam women's doubles titles, all while playing with older sister Venus.

# Animal magic! Learning to be kind and caring

**A** leading animal welfare charity has launched a scheme to encourage primary school children to be kind to pets and wildlife.

The educational programme called Compassionate Class has been set up by the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

The charity says: "It encourages children's development of compassion and empathy through a series of fun and engaging animal welfare topics."

Teachers can download resources including films, animations and real-life stories to give children an

understanding of the needs of different animals.

The RSPCA added: "We have a variety of discovery activities to choose from, including pets, wildlife, farm animals and even life under the sea.

"By the end of each session, pupils will better understand how their lives relate to the animals they share the world with.

The final part of Compassionate Class encourages pupils to campaign for

animal welfare in a creative and imaginative way. Schools can enter pupils' creative work into a competition each term to be crowned the RSPCA's most Compassionate Class.

The charity is aiming for 1.6 million schoolchildren to have taken part in Compassionate Class by 2030, and its head of education, David Allen, said: "When this generation of children get older, they'll be far more empathetic towards the needs of animals and they'll be more willing to contact the RSPCA when they suspect that an animal is being mistreated.

"Our hope is that this will reduce animal suffering for generations to come."

[education.rspca.org.uk](http://education.rspca.org.uk)



**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.

**DROUGHT**

Hot, dry weather during the summer caused water shortages in some parts of England.

**Definition**

A prolonged period of unusually low rainfall, leading to a *shortage of water*.

**Derivation**

From the Old English word *drugath*, related to the Dutch *droogte*, meaning *dryness*.

**Synonyms**

*Lack, scarcity, dearth.*

**NUMBER  
IN THE NEWS**

1/3

A third of the whole area of Pakistan has been left under water after huge floods, affecting the lives of more than 33 million people.

**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.literacyshedplus.com](http://www.literacyshedplus.com)

■ For contact details please see the website.

**CATCHING UP THE NEWS WHILE WE WERE AWAY**

**Moon rocket launch halted**

» Snags delay Artemis test space flight

The first launch of a space rocket built to take people to the Moon for the first time in more than 50 years has been delayed after two failed take-offs.

Nasa's Artemis programme aims to send astronauts to the Moon by 2025, the first time humans have set foot there since Apollo 17 in 1972.

The first test flight was to be an unmanned mission which would see Artemis I blast off from Florida and travel around the Moon before returning to Earth.

But the first attempted take-off was halted when engineers were unable to stabilise the temperature of one of the rocket's engines.

A second attempt was made five days later but this time take-off had to be abandoned because of a fuel leak on the 100-metre tall rocket.

It will now be mid-October at the earliest before Nasa tries again, and mission manager Mike Sarafin said: "This is an incredibly hard business. This is an initial test flight of this vehicle.

"We're going to fly when we're ready. As part of this initial test flight, we're learning the vehicle – we're learning how to operate the vehicle."



■ A lifeboat volunteer has completed a charity challenge by having a cold shower outdoors every day for a year.

Guy Addington, a lifeboat helmsman at the RNLI station in Margate, endured sub-zero temperatures, hail, storms and driving winds – and even catching Covid – while recording a daily video on YouTube.

By the time he finally dried off for the last time, Guy had raised more than £10,000 for the RNLI, a charity which is funded entirely by donations.



After his final outdoor shower of the chilly challenge, watched by friends and supporters, Guy said: "I'm absolutely blown away by the support and all the people who have travelled to see this. It's a bit weird being watched by so many people when I'm having a shower!"

He said the worst part of the stunt was the cold water giving him 'brain freeze', which many people feel when eating a cold ice cream too quickly. "I never worked out how to cope with that," he admitted.

Picture: RNLI/Paul Dunt



## CATCHING UP THE NEWS WHILE WE WERE AWAY

**LEGO**  
**MANIA**

» Celebrating 90 years of brick fun

The News Shed celebrated the 90th anniversary of Lego in August with a visit to Billund, the small town in Denmark where it all began for the world's most popular toy.

It remains Lego's world headquarters and has a host of visitor attractions, making it a magnet for tourists from all over the world.

The Lego story began in 1932 when carpenter Ole Kirk Christiansen began making wooden toys.

The familiar plastic building bricks developed over the years and Lego has now overtaken Mattel as the world's biggest toy company by revenue.

Billund is dominated by the Lego-land Resort, which features hotels and chalets where visitors can stay on site, a theme park and the sprawling Miniland display of famous buildings and cities, including an 18ft (5.5m) version of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai.

Miniland is constructed entirely from Lego and has been built using more than 20 million bricks.



In the centre of Billund is the Lego House, opened in 2017 and known as the Home of the Brick.

It features more than 25 million bricks in models, interactive areas and historic displays.

A huge Lego tree, built from eight million bricks, stands four storeys high through the middle of the building – and in the restaurant visitors order their food using Lego bricks and have their meals delivered by Lego robots!

**ZOO NEWS**

Two British zoos are celebrating births which are being hailed as major boosts for animal conservation work.

At Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire, 13-year-old Asian elephant Donna successfully gave birth to a female calf (pictured).

The zoo's deputy team leader of elephants, Mark Howes, said: "To say we're delighted by the arrival of this calf is just a huge understatement – it's a massive success for Donna, for the herd at Whipsnade Zoo, and for elephant conservation.

"This little infant is a really important addition to the



European-wide endangered species breeding programme for Asian elephants."

At Chester Zoo, baby giraffe Stanley has taken his first unsteady steps.

He has been named after Mount Stanley, the tallest mountain in Uganda, where the zoo's conservationists are fighting to boost giraffe numbers.

While tiny in comparison to mum Orla, the new arrival was born already towering above 6ft tall and weighing 72kg.

Meanwhile, Bristol Zoo, the fifth oldest zoo in the world, having opened in 1836, has closed its doors for the final time.

The animals will be moved to the zoo's sister site at The Wild Place Project in Gloucestershire, where the much larger grounds will offer the animals more space.

## TV feast from Middle-earth

Tolkien fans are enjoying a spectacular television treat this month with the launch of *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*.

Viewers lucky enough to have access to Amazon's Prime Video streaming site can watch the new eight-part series based on JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and his other works.

Although based on those stories, the television series is actually set thousands of years before the time of *The Lord of the Rings* and traces the history of Middle-earth and the relationship between man and elves.

Amazon paid \$250million (£215m) for the screen rights to Tolkien's work in 2017 and the eight-part series is reported to have cost \$465m (£400m), making it the most expensive television series ever made.

And it has not been without controversies, with some viewers criticising the depiction of the elves and Amazon shutting down its review facility to block trolling.

# Dahl-icious!



## » Celebrating a favourite author

Children around the world will be celebrating one of their favourite authors on Tuesday.

Roald Dahl was born in Cardiff on September 13 and the day is now marked by Roald Dahl Story Day, when fans of the author's books can enjoy his stories and characters and join in activities.

The day also helps raise money for Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, which provides nursing and special care for seriously ill children.

Although best known as a writer, Dahl was a fighter pilot and later an intelligence officer in the Royal Air Force during World War Two.

Dahl also wrote for television and books for grown-ups but is best known for children's stories such as *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *The Witches*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *The BFG*, *The Twits* and *George's Marvellous Medicine*.

Some of his books have been turned into films, particularly *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which was retitled as *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* in the 1971 version starring Gene Wilder as the chocolate maker.

» Next week in The News Shed: don't miss our look at some of the best new children's book set to come out this autumn

### CROSSWORD

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#### ACROSS

- 1&3 Largest mountain range entirely in Europe (3,4)
- 5 Urban area (4)
- 6 Capital of Fiji (4)
- 8 Middle East country, capital Muscat (4)
- 11 Female sheep (3)
- 12 Large South American bird, related to ostrich and emu (4)
- 15 Tartan skirt (4)
- 16 Six balls in cricket (4)
- 17 Scheme (4)
- 18 Honey producer (3)

#### DOWN

- 1 African country, capital Lomé (4)
- 2 Volcano on Sicily (4)
- 3 Response, could be right or wrong (6)
- 4 Mediterranean, for example (3)
- 7 Take part in an election (4)
- 9 African country, capital Bamako (4)
- 10 Sir Isaac, physicist who explained gravity (6)
- 13 Thyme or basil, for example (4)
- 14 Imperial measurement of land area, roughly half a football pitch (4)
- 15 Football stand at Anfield; South African term for a hill (3)

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



**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY SEPTEMBER 12, 1940****ROCK STARS**

## » Boys find prehistoric cave paintings

One of the world's best displays of prehistoric cave paintings was discovered completely by accident by four teenage boys.

The four young friends were exploring caves near the village of Montignac in eastern France on September 12, 1940, when they came across the ancient artwork in what are now known as the Lascaux Caves.

More than 600 paintings cover the rock walls and ceiling of the caves and are estimated to have been created by several generations more than 17,000 years ago.

Most of the paintings are of large animals such as horses, deer and aurochs, wild European oxen which have now been extinct for 400 years.



The caves have been closed to the public since 1963 because their condition was deteriorating and were declared a Unesco world heritage site in 1979.

Three replicas – exact copies of some of the original paintings – have been created for public display.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 1985**

The Mario series is the biggest selling video game franchise of all time with more than 776 million games sold down the years.

But it had humble beginnings. As reported on this page in July, Mario originally appeared only as a character in several Donkey Kong games before Mario Bros was launched by Nintendo as an arcade game in 1983.

But the series, in which Italian twin brother plumbers Mario and Luigi must tackle creatures emerging from the New York sewers, really took off on September 13, 1985, when the Super Mario Bros platform games were released for the Nintendo Entertainment System.

In the years since, more than 200 different games and sub-series have hit children's screens.

Like many other franchises, Mario has spread from gaming platforms to all areas of media, such as film, television, magazines, books and toys.



The Super Mario Bros Super Show, first broadcast in 1989, was the first of many television series, but a move to the cinema screen was less successful.

Super Mario Bros was a 1993 film starring Bob Hoskins as Mario and John Leguizamo as Luigi but it did not go down well. The film got a poor reception from critics and, having cost \$48million to make, made only \$21million at the box office.

There are higher hopes, though, for a new animated feature-length film currently being made and which is expected to be released in April next year.

**Birthday SHED****Birthdays this week**

- September 10 World Cup-winning cricket captain **Eoin Morgan** is 36.
- September 11 Singer and pianist **Harry Connick Jr** is 55.
- September 12 Actor **Alfie Allen**, Theon Greyjoy in Game of Thrones, is 36.
- September 13 One Direction singer **Niall Horan** is 29.
- September 14 Sky Sports football commentator **Martin Tyler** is 77.
- September 15 **Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex** (pictured), is 38.
- September 16 Magician and illusionist **David Copperfield** is 66.





**WOMEN'S FOOTBALL**

# It's next stop the World Cup for Lionesses

England have followed up their European Championship triumph by sealing qualification for next year's Women's World Cup.

Sarina Wiegman's side delighted the nation when they won the European final in July, beating old rivals Germany 2-1 at Wembley.

It was England's first major football tournament victory since the men's team won the 1966 World Cup final, also at Wembley, when they beat West Germany 4-2 after extra-time.

This year's triumph means Wiegman has been the winning European Championship coach for the second competition running, having led her native Netherlands to the title in 2017.

Now she leads England into the World Cup in Australia and New Zealand next year,

having qualified with a game to spare after confirming top spot in their group with a 2-0 win over Austria in Wiener Neustadt thanks to goals from Alessia Russo and Nikita Parris. They then finished the group with a 10-0 win over Luxembourg.



Wales, Scotland and Ireland now face play-offs in an attempt to reach the finals after all three finished second in their groups.

The Lionesses must tackle the global tournament without two of their greatest ever players.

All-time top scorer Ellen White announced her retirement after the Euro triumph, having scored 52 goals in 113 England games as well as six in eight games for Team GB at the Olympics.

White was then followed into retirement by 35-year-old midfielder Jill Scott (pictured). She won 161 caps in a remarkable 16-year career, 11 appearances short of Fara Williams' record 172 games for England.

**W**hile the rest of the country faces a cost of living crisis amid rising prices, Premier League football clubs went on a record-breaking spending spree during the summer transfer window.

Clubs can only buy and sell players during two 'windows' in the calendar, during the summer and then again in January.

Clubs, particularly at the top level, are constantly seeking to improve their squads in the search for trophies and the all-important qualification for European competitions.

As well as expensive ticket sales for fans to watch matches, clubs are largely funded by huge contracts with television companies, shirt sponsorship deals and the sale of merchandise.

The records set this summer are:

■ The 20 Premier League clubs spent

about £1.9 billion between them, more than the major leagues in Spain, Italy and Germany put together.

■ A record 169 players were signed during the summer transfer window.

■ Chelsea spent almost £280 million, more than any club has laid out in a single window, including £47.5m for England forward Raheem Sterling from Manchester City.

■ Manchester United's £227m outlay was that club's record spend. The £86m for Brazil winger Antony was the fourth highest Premier League transfer fee after Jack Grealish (£100m, Aston Villa to Manchester City), Romelu Lukaku (£96m, Inter Milan to Chelsea) and Paul Pogba (£89m, Juventus to Manchester United).

■ Newly-promoted Nottingham Forest brought in no fewer than 21 new players, with 15 leaving the club.

## Fact SHED

### Major signings by the Premier League's big six

■ **Arsenal**

Player	from	fee
Gabriel Jesus	Man City	£45m
Oleksandr Zinchenko	Man City	£32m

■ **Chelsea**

Marc Cucurella	Brighton	£60m
Kalidou Koulibaly	Napoli	£33m
Raheem Sterling	Man City	£47.5m

■ **Liverpool**

Fabio Carvalho	Fulham	undisclosed
Arthur Melo	Juventus	loan
Darwin Nunez	Benfica	£85m

■ **Manchester City**

Manuel Akanji	B.Dortmund	£15m
Erling Haaland	B.Dortmund	£51m
Kalvin Phillips	Leeds Utd	£50m

■ **Manchester United**

Player	from	fee
Antony	Ajax	£86m
Casemiro	Real Madrid	£70m
Martin Dubravka	Newcastle	loan
Christian Eriksen	Brentford	free
Tyrell Malacia	Feyenoord	£14.7m
Lisandro Martinez	Ajax	£56.7m

■ **Tottenham Hotspur**

Ivan Perisic	Inter Milan	free
Yves Bissouma	Brighton	£35m
Richarlison	Everton	£60m
Clement Lenglet	Barcelona	loan
Djed Spence	Middlesbro	£20m
Cristian Romero	Atalanta	undisclosed
Destiny Udogie	Udinese	£15m