

## ANTARCTIC NEWS 1

# Iceberg the size of London breaks away

» Massive ice sheet splits from Antarctic

**A** huge iceberg has broken away from an ice sheet on the edge of the Antarctic.

The iceberg covers an area of 600 square miles (1,550 sq km), almost the same size as all of Greater London.

Almost 500ft (150m) thick, the iceberg broke away from the Brunt Ice Shelf and is now drifting away into the Weddell Sea.

Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) said they had been expecting it to happen and insist it is not caused by climate change.

BAS scientist Dominic Hodgson said: "This has been expected and is part of the natural behaviour of the Brunt Ice Shelf. It is not linked to climate change."

A huge crack, known as Chasm-1, has been developing for several years and finally extended across the whole ice sheet to cause the vast area of ice to break away.

The BAS's Halley Research Station, housing 21 staff, is on the Brunt Ice Shelf but was moved 14 miles (23km) further south seven years ago to remain safe.



The huge chasm which has now widened, causing the iceberg to break away from the ice shelf

Picture: British Antarctic Survey

## ANTARCTIC NEWS 2



Scientists have used satellite images to discover a previously unknown colony of emperor penguins on the edge of Antarctica. They have now identified 66 colonies of the large penguins, half of them by using satellite pictures.

Emperor penguins need sea ice to breed and are located in areas that are very difficult to study because they are remote and often inaccessible, making the satellite pictures from space invaluable.

Although the penguins themselves are not visible, scientists can identify where they are from the brown patches caused by their guano.

Dr Peter Fretwell said: "This is an exciting discovery. The new satellite images of Antarctica's coastline have enabled us to find many new colonies.

"And while this is good news, like many of the recently discovered sites, this colony is small and in a region badly affected by recent sea ice loss".

**Even more Antarctic news: see page 4**

## 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.

### WIG

Schoolchildren in Chorley held a crazy *hair* day to support a teacher who has worn colourful *wigs* after losing her hair during cancer treatment.

#### Definition

A covering for the head made of real or artificial *hair*.

#### Derivation

Short for *periwig*, it comes from the French word *perruque* and Italian word *perrucca*.

#### Synonyms

*hairpiece, toupee.*

## NUMBER

### IN THE NEWS

#### 10

The number of games Newcastle goalkeeper Nick Pope has played without conceding a single goal.

## 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.



Picture: Oxford Archeology

■ Archeologists have discovered skeletons buried in Roman times – with their skulls removed and placed by their feet.

The grisly find at a Roman burial site near St Neots, Cambridgeshire, was made by Oxford Archeology who are clearing the ground to prepare for a new development.

The 2,500-year-old site will

feature on the Digging for Britain programme on BBC Two on Sunday evening.

It is not known for sure why the skulls have been separated but a similar find at another dig elsewhere in Cambridgeshire two years ago were believed to have been the victims of military executions by beheading.

## Oscars delight as Ireland gets 14 nominations

Irish films and actors have been nominated for an amazing 14 Oscars.

Their proper name is the Academy Awards and they are the most sought-after prizes in the film world.

The Banshees of Inisherin alone has nine nominations including Colin Farrell for best actor, Kerry Condon for best supporting actress, and Barry Keoghan and Brendan Gleeson for best supporting actor. It is also nominated for best film while Martin McDonagh is in the running for best director and best screenplay.

Another Irish actor, Paul Mescal, is also nominated as best actor for his part in Aftersun.

Also among the nominations for best actor is 73-year-old English actor Bill Nighy in Living – his first Oscar nomination – while Andrea Riseborough is nominated for best actress in To Leslie.

The winners will be revealed in Los Angeles on March 13.

## Listen up! It's story time for everybody

A love of stories is to be celebrated throughout next week.

National Storytelling Week, organised by the Literacy Trust, runs from January 30 to February 5.

The Trust says: "National Storytelling Week takes place every year and is a celebration of the power of sharing stories. Stories teach us about the world, they allow us to step into someone else's shoes and feel empathy, they help us to relax and escape and they can help develop essential literacy skills."

The Trust has a wide range of resources and activities for teachers and schoolchildren on its website as it encourages children to listen to stories and become story-tellers themselves.

There are also events online and at places such as local libraries while families are also being encouraged to take part at home.

[literacytrust.org.uk](http://literacytrust.org.uk)



# Seals go walkabout!

## » Pups rescued after getting lost

**S**eal pups have had to be rescued after wandering away from their usual home on the beach.

In the Norfolk village of Hemsby, rescuers were called at 11pm when a young seal was spotted on the pavement outside a kebab shop and amusement arcade.

Passers-by called the local Marine and Wildlife Rescue organisation, who immediately went into action.

They found the seal shuffling along the pavement, hundreds of yards from the sea, and were able to load the creature onto a stretcher and take it back to the beach.

Dan Goldsmith, head of the rescue centre, said: "The pup must have just been looking for some shelter, but got disoriented and kept heading inland."

As reported in The News Shed, this winter has been a record one for the birth of seal pups on the Norfolk coast, with more than 4,000 counted on one stretch of the coastline.

On the other side of England, a seal pup was found in a snowy farmer's field more than 15 miles from the sea.

Luckily, veterinary nurse Rebecca Adair was walking her dog nearby when she was alerted by a neighbour



**Above: The seal pup on a pavement in Hemsby, Norfolk**

*Picture: Marine and Wildlife Rescue*



**Left: The seal found 15 miles from the sea in Lancashire**

*Picture: Rebecca Adair*

who had spotted the seal in the field.

Rebecca and her neighbour were able to keep the seal safe and get it into a dog cage before help arrived from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue and the RSPCA.

It is thought the seal had swum up the River Darwen in search of food before taking to the fields near Preston.

The rescuers were able to release the pup safely back into the sea at Fleetwood on the Fylde coast.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

**B**uckingham Palace has announced a series of events to mark the King's coronation in May.

Charles III will be formally crowned at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, May 6, and the following day will see a special open-air concert at Windsor Castle, which will be broadcast live on the BBC.

The same day will be the date for the Coronation Big Lunch, when local communities can come together to put on street parties to enjoy together.

The King wants Monday, May 8 – which is to be a bank holiday – to be marked by the Big Help Out, when people will be encouraged to volunteer to make a difference in their communities.

**S**everal major technology companies have announced huge job cuts.

**Microsoft is to cut 10,000 jobs around the world, saying sales have slowed down amid the cost of living crisis.**

**Amazon cited the "uncertain economy", when it said 18,000 people's jobs would go and three huge British warehouses would be closed.**

**Alphabet, parent company of Google, is to cut 12,000 jobs worldwide, also blaming the economy, while Facebook owner Meta announced 11,000 job losses before Christmas.**

**T**housands of people have protested over the cut in areas where wild camping is allowed on Dartmoor.

It has long been understood people could camp where they liked on the National Park moorland in Devon. But landowners have won a court case which restricts the areas in which people can pitch tents overnight.

Campaigner Annie Dare said: "The mobilisation of thousands of people who were willing to walk collectively onto the open moor is testament to strength of feeling.

"And this is not just about Dartmoor, it is about common right to open space everywhere across England."

Preet Chandi posted a selfie when she reached the South Pole



## SO NEAR BUT YET SO FAR!

» Polar Preet's epic Antarctic journey

**P**olar adventurer Preet Chandi has set a new record in the Antarctic – but still fell agonisingly short of her goal.

The 33-year-old Army captain and physiotherapist from Derby travelled 868 miles (1,397km), the furthest ever solo and unassisted trek by a woman in the Antarctic.

Skiing alone and pulling all her supplies and equipment on a sled, Preet beat the previous record of 858 miles (1,381km), set by German adventurer Anja Blacha three years ago.

But Preet's goal had been to become the first woman ever to travel solo across the whole of the Antarctic.

Despite skiing for up to 15 hours a day, poor conditions slowed her down and she was around 30 miles (48km) short when the deadline arrived for her to be picked up by aeroplane before the weather worsened.

Coping with temperatures as low as -50°C and wind speeds of 60mph, her journey took two and a half months.

The first part of her journey took her to the South Pole, when she wrote on her blog: "Three years ago, I did not know much about Antarctica and that is what inspired me to go there."

"Hopefully doing something that pushed me so far out of my comfort zone would inspire others to believe in themselves and push their boundaries."

"After 40 days alone on the ice, I completed my 700-mile journey to the South Pole on January 3."

Remarkably, it was not the first time Preet had reached the South Pole alone and unassisted.

A year ago, she became the first woman of Asian heritage to reach the South Pole on a solo journey, skiing 700 miles in 40 days, just hours outside the record.

## High-flyer Tim coming back down to Earth in retirement

Tim Peake, one of only a handful of British people to serve on the International Space Station (ISS), has announced his retirement as an astronaut.

No other British-born astronaut had spent more than 36 days on the ISS until Peake stayed there for 186 days between 2015 and 2016.

He became a familiar figure in the news during his stay in space, making a New Year's Day broadcast on the BBC, taking part in the London Marathon by running the marathon distance of 26.2 miles on the space station's treadmill, and conducting question and answer sessions with schoolchildren.

He also became the first British astronaut to make a spacewalk when he ventured outside the ISS to fix a faulty piece of equipment.

An astronaut with the European Space Agency for 13 years, he will now stick to Earth-bound work as an ambassador for the agency.

The former British Army helicopter pilot said: "I've always believed in moving forward and embracing new challenges, even if you don't know what's round the corner – it keeps things interesting."

"My years with the ESA have been a fantastic phase of my life and I look forward to remaining part of the ESA family as an ambassador."

"Space is such an exciting and dynamic sector to work in, now more so than ever. It's a privilege to work with talented people who are so passionate about what they do."

"And as for getting back to space again – never say never!"



**OUCH!** Film star Jeremy Renner has revealed he suffered more than 30 broken bones when he was run over by his own snowplough.

As reported in The New Shed, Renner had stepped down from the machine after clearing snow near his home in Nevada on New Year's Day. He ran back when it started moving but was hit by the snowplough and badly injured.

The actor, who played Hawkeye in the Marvel films, is now recovering from his multiple injuries in hospital.



**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY FEBRUARY 2, 1901****END OF AN ERA**

- » Victoria's reign ends after 63 years
- » No London ceremony at her request

**T**here was no lying in state or grand London funeral when one of the great reigns of British history came to an end.

Queen Victoria died at the age of 81 at her Isle of Wight home, Osborne House, on January 22, 1901, after 63 years, seven months and two days on the throne. It was the longest reign of any British monarch until it was overtaken by Queen Elizabeth II.

Victoria's coffin was taken by boat to the mainland and then by train to Victoria Station. Its only appearance in London came when it was moved by gun carriage from Victoria to Paddington Station from where it was taken to Windsor.

The state funeral was held at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on February 2, 1901, before Victoria was buried alongside her husband, Prince Albert, two days later in the royal mausoleum at Frogmore on the

Windsor estate. The last 40 years of her reign had been spent as a widow following Albert's death in 1861.

That there was no lying in state or Westminster Abbey funeral had been at her own request.

It was only an unlikely sequence of events that saw Victoria become queen at all.

Her father, the Duke of Kent, was only the fourth son of George III but when he and then her uncles, George IV and William IV, died and her father's four other brothers died without having had any children, Victoria became next in line and ascended to the throne at the age of 18 in 1837.

The next 63 years of her reign, known as the Victorian era, was a key time in the country's development as it saw huge advances in science, technology and industry as Britain became a major world power with an empire stretching across the globe.

**FEBRUARY 1, 2013**

The Shard building in London opened its viewing gallery to the public 10 years ago this week.

At 72 storeys and 1,016ft (309.6 metres), it is the tallest building in Britain and the seventh-tallest in Europe. The tallest building in Europe is the Lakhta Centre in St Petersburg, Russia, at 87 storeys and 1,516ft (462 metres).

**JANUARY 30, 1969**

The Beatles made their final public performance when they staged an impromptu concert on the roof of their record company Apple Records' headquarters in London.

The Fab Four, as they were known, were joined by keyboard player Billy Preston and played for 42 minutes before the police asked them to turn the volume down.

At the time, many fans believed it was a warm-up for a return to live shows, but a little over a year later John Lennon quit the band and The Beatles broke up for good.

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

- January 28: Actor **Elijah Wood**, Frodo Baggins in The Lord of the Rings films, is 42.
- January 29: Veteran radio disc jockey **Tony Blackburn** is 80.
- January 30: Welsh-born actor **Christian Bale**, star of three Batman films, is 49.
- January 31: American singer-songwriter **Justin Timberlake** is 42.
- February 1: Fiorentina and Argentina football legend **Gabriel Batistuta** is 54.
- February 2: Former England football star **Jill Scott** (pictured), capped 161 times, is 36.
- February 3: Stars Wars and Harry Potter film actor **Warwick Davis** is 53.



**R**ugby union fans are licking their lips as a huge year of the international game is about to start.

The Six Nations championship kicks off next weekend in a year which culminates with the Rugby World Cup in France in September and October.

The Six Nations is always eagerly anticipated and will have an extra twist this year as teams continue their build-up and make preparations for the global competition.

For England and Wales, those preparations will mean starting afresh under new head coaches appointed in recent months.

As reported in previous editions of The News Shed, England will play their first games under Steve Borthwick, who takes over from the sacked Eddie Jones.

Borthwick, who played 57 times for England, moves to Twickenham from his job at Leicester Tigers and takes rugby league legend Kevin Sinfield with him as defence coach.

Wales also have a familiar face in charge with Warren Gatland returning for his second spell as head coach. The New Zealander led Wales to four Six Nations titles, including three grand slams – winning all five matches – during his first spell from 2007 to 2019.

Ireland and defending champions France will start as favourites as they are ranked first and second respectively in the current world rankings.

Scotland also have a new face in the shape of wing Ruaridh McConnochie, who is in their squad for the first time after switching allegiance from England, who he played for twice four years ago.

If he makes the team, McConnochie will face his former country on the opening day on February 4.

The championship is completed by Italy, who will battle to avoid finishing bottom of the table, their fate in the last seven seasons and in 18 of the 23 years since they joined the competition in 2000.

## Fact SHED

### Six Nations 2023

#### Week 1

Feb 4 Wales v Ireland.....2.15pm

Feb 4 England v Scotland.....4.45pm

Feb 5 Italy v France.....3pm

#### Week 2

Feb 11 Ireland v France.....2.15pm

Feb 11 Scotland v Wales.....4.45pm

Feb 12 England v Italy.....3pm

#### Week 3

Feb 25 Italy v Ireland.....2.15pm

Feb 25 Wales v England.....4.45pm

Feb 26 France v Scotland.....3pm

#### Week 4

Mar 11 Italy v Wales.....2.15pm

Mar 11 England v France.....4.45pm

Mar 12 Scotland v Ireland.....3pm

#### Week 5

Mar 18 Scotland v Italy.....12.30pm

Mar 18 France v Wales.....2.45pm

Mar 18 Ireland v England.....5pm

*All kick-off times shown in UK time*

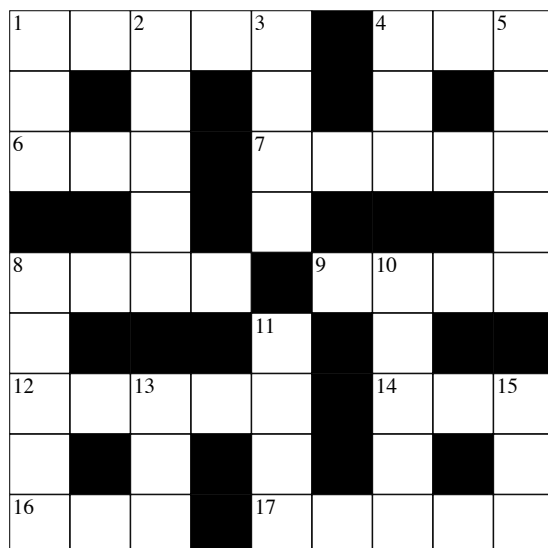
### How they finished last year

	P	W	L	PD	BP	Pts
France.....	5	5	0	+68	5	25
Ireland.....	5	4	1	+105	5	21
England.....	5	2	3	+5	2	10
Scotland.....	5	2	3	-29	2	10
Wales.....	5	1	4	-28	3	7
Italy.....	5	1	4	-121	0	4

### How points are gained

- 4 points for a win
- 2 points for a draw
- One bonus point for scoring four or more tries in a game
- One bonus point for losing a game by seven points or fewer
- 3 bonus points for winning grand slam

## CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

- 1&4** Animal trained to protect a building (5,3)
- 6** Seed from 2 down (3)
- 7** Capital of 5 down (5)
- 8** Skin of 2 down (4)
- 9** World's most populated island, part of Indonesia (4)
- 12** Lift up (5)
- 14** Plaything (3)
- 16** Observe (3)
- 17** Capital of Belarus (5)

### DOWN

- 1** Space between two things (3)
- 2** Fruit, usually red and/or green (5)
- 3** Unable to hear (4)
- 4** Medical person (abbreviation) (3)
- 5** West African country, between Ivory Coast and Togo (5)
- 8** Capital of France (5)
- 10** Part of Birmingham where Villa play football (5)
- 11** Group of people working together (4)
- 13** Frozen water (3)
- 15** Hairy cattle found in the Himalayas (3)

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