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First News

Issue 744 £2.25 18 – 24 September 2020

THE UK'S ONLY
NEWSPAPER
FOR CHILDREN



FUTURE VISIONS OF OUR PLANET



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FOLLOWING THE LAUNCH OF THE LIVING PLANET REPORT,
WWF IS ASKING *FIRST NEWS* READERS TO THINK
ABOUT THE KIND OF POSITIVE FUTURE YOU'D LIKE TO SEE

READ THE LIVING
PLANET REPORT AT
WWF.ORG.UK



Share your Future Visions on Instagram or Twitter with **#FutureVisions** and **@WWF_UK**.
Or email them to **education@wwf.org.uk**. Please be aware of age restrictions on social media.

FIND OUT MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE
AND AT THE BACK OF YOUR PAPER

Advertisement feature – your normal issue of **First News** is inside!

FUTURE VISIONS

IMAGINING THE WORLD AT OUR FINGERTIPS WITH WWF

THE natural world is being seriously damaged by human activity at a time when we need it the most. Nature helps to stabilise the ever-changing climate. It provides us all with the essentials needed for life – things like fresh water, food and oxygen.

As *First News* readers know, we must act quickly to help stop any more catastrophes.

The truth is that change is needed – and it's right at our fingertips.

WWF's Living Planet Report 2020 has been released, and you can read it at [wwf.org.uk](https://www.wwf.org.uk). The report shows how the natural world is doing, what threats it faces and what this means for us humans. It lays out the stepping stones for a sustainable future, one in which we can live in balance with the natural world.

The world is already changing. There has been a 68% average drop in global wildlife population sizes since 1970. Although there is hard work ahead, the near future will bring new opportunities and exciting developments in technology and ways of living. We will learn to shape a future that is better for both people and wildlife.

It is this vision of the future that we would like you to help us imagine.

HELP US TO IMAGINE
A POSITIVE FUTURE
WHERE HUMANS CAN
LIVE IN HARMONY WITH
THE NATURAL WORLD



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JOIN THE **FUTURE VISIONS** CHALLENGE!

We must all be aware of our environmental footprint right now, but that doesn't mean we can't also look to the future. WWF is asking *First News* readers to focus on the positive mission of creating a better world.

We would like to see your own creations about the kind of future you want. We want you to show everyone that there is a future worth working for, and to inspire us all to play our part in shaping it.

You could share your vision in a picture or cartoon, a video or a piece of music, or you could write a poem, as novelist and poet Benjamin Zephaniah has done.

Some just could not be content
So empires came and empires went,
Nobody thought of air pollution
Come the industrial revolution,
From beneath that land where
we did toil
They took coal, and gold, and oil
Developers clothed in well armed forces
Robbed the Earth of its resources.

Beneath the land they started drilling
Beneath the seas they started killing,
After the brave hearts learned to fly
They sucked the life out of the sky,
From way on high to well down under
Deceive and rob, pillage and plunder,
The so called civilised can't see
They're drunk on their hypocrisy.

But then a generation came
Who said things just can't stay the same,
A generation who it seems
Are full of hope, belief, and dreams,

They know that they can do much better
If they rise up and work together,
They love this Earth, and they have seen
A vision of it blue and green.

Unleash the righteous thinking mind
Unleash the good within mankind
Unleash the youth who could with care
Rebuild our lives and clean the air,
Let us not dig for negatives
Let's reach out for alternatives,
Breathe in my people, save the whale
Touch the trees, and then exhale.



WWF's Youth Ambassadors have created their own poetry, if you're looking for more inspiration.



"Another change that I want to see is education about the natural world and how we are changing it becoming an essential part of the school curriculum. This will create a generation that will want to help the planet, as they will know what would happen if we continue to act as we are doing now. If people do not learn about this interdependence, many will not be aware of what is happening and therefore will not question the actions continuing as before."

— Izaak

"With everything going on it's really tough keeping an open mind and maintaining hope. However, when I said the bigger picture was climate change, I missed out one crucial word that makes the whole picture worth looking at. That is 'beating climate change', because without the hope how can we move forward? Can you see the bigger picture?"

— Sally

"Our planet is seriously ill. We can't give her paracetamol and hope for the best. We need to rush her into intensive care and all check on her every minute of every day. As a society we are the nurses and doctors and the politicians are the hospital administrators. My generation will hold you accountable for her health. Go outside and realise what a privilege it is to live on our little blue and green planet."

— Hattie

If you have lots of cool ideas already, here's a great way to start. Ask yourself some of the following questions and make a note of anything that comes to mind. **It could be the best way to kick-start your own Future Vision idea:**



WHAT THINGS
ABOUT THE WAY WE
LIVE TODAY WOULD YOU
WANT TO CHANGE?

WHAT NEW TECHNOLOGIES
WILL WE BE USING IN THE
FUTURE TO HELP US ENJOY A
COMFORTABLE LIFE WITHOUT
HARMING NATURE?



HOW WOULD IT FEEL
TO LIVE IN A WORLD
IN WHICH PEOPLE
AND NATURE ARE IN
BALANCE?



WHO DO YOU THINK
NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION
TO MAKE THIS FUTURE
POSSIBLE? HOW CAN YOU
HELP TO BRING IT
ABOUT?



VIDEO

POEM

SHORT
STORY

MUSIC

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IMAGINING OUR POSITIVE FUTURE

THE FUTURE VISIONS CHALLENGE

IMAGINE you are in the future. Close your eyes and form a mental picture, and when you open them write down everything you can remember about the experience...

WHERE
ARE YOU?

HOW DO
YOU **FEEL**?

WHAT
CAN YOU
SMELL?

WHAT
CAN YOU
SEE?

WHAT
CAN YOU
HEAR?

Think about how you can communicate your vision of the future to other people.

You could write a script for the Future Visions film, write a poem or a short story about life in the future. You could compose a song or a piece of music or make your own short film. You could design a poster or even write a speech for world leaders that sends a message about the future that you want to see.

Can you imagine a world where wildlife and man-made eco-friendly technologies work in harmony together?

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CLIMBS
ALPS P7



MEGA
SHARK
P10



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INTERVIEW
P18



THIEM
TIME
P24



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THE GREAT BRITISH

BEACH CLEAN

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

18–25 SEPTEMBER

THE Great British Beach Clean is back for a whole week of beach-cleaning events, rather than the usual weekend, starting today, Friday 18 September.

This year the Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) annual clean-up is encouraging more people than ever to become organisers and set up their own beach clean and litter survey with friends, family or 'bubbles', in line with Government guidance.

The MCS says: "Like many events, this year the Great British Beach Clean looks a little different. Rather than encouraging volunteers to find a beach clean happening near them, we're calling on individuals to adopt a 100m stretch of beach and organise their own beach cleans."

The charity is hoping to collect data on personal protective equipment, including gloves and face masks, to see what impact these newly popular items are having on the environment.

The Great British Beach Clean has been leading the way in tackling ocean pollution for 26 years. It has helped bring about major changes to deal with beach litter, like the plastic bag charge, banning microplastics in personal care products, better wet wipe labelling, and supporting a tax on single-use plastic items.

Over the years, 319 tonnes of litter have been picked up at Great British Beach Cleans.



For more information or to contact the
Marine Conservation Society, go to www.mcsuk.org

2. QUICK NEWS

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BTS WILL SEE YOU SOON



K-pop superstars BTS have appeared in a video promoting tourism to Seoul, South Korea's capital. Like everywhere, tourism has dwindled due to COVID-19, but officials are hoping the boyband's video, *See You In Seoul*, will encourage tourists to visit once restrictions are lifted.



TEDDY BEAR PROTEST

Thousands of teddy bears have protested in Denmark over childcare. Well, all right, people protested but they used teddies to get their point across! The protest was because people think the rules aren't strong enough about how many children can be left with an adult in the country's day care centres – one worker can be left in charge of up to 17 young children.

SNIP THE STRAPS

The RSPCA has launched a campaign to get people to "snip the straps" on their disposable masks and dispose of them properly, after a number of animals were found entangled. The charity has had to help 900 animals caught in litter since the start of lockdown, and careless disposal of single-use masks has made an already serious problem even worse. "This message is more important than ever, as thousands of these masks are being thrown away every day," warned the charity's boss, Chris Sherwood.



QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

SURF'S UP FOR MAYA



The World Surf League has confirmed that Brazilian big wave surfer Maya Gabeira has won this year's XXL Biggest Wave Award – as well as breaking her own Guinness World Record for the largest wave ever surfed by a woman. She rode the massive 22.4m wave in February. "I think the most impressive thing for me was the noise," she said.

TINY TEAPOT TREASURE



An ancient Chinese wine jug that looks like a little teapot is expected to sell for tens of thousands of pounds. The rare object is centuries old and was found by a construction worker during a clearout. Hansons Auctioneers believe it may have belonged to a Chinese emperor and estimate it will go for between £20,000 and £40,000.

ONCE YOU POP...

Pringles tubes are hoping to lose their reputation as the biggest villain of the recycling world with an environmentally friendly makeover. The new design ditches the foil inside the tube, and two new lids are being tested. Don't worry, though, they'll still make the famous popping sound!

OIL BLOCKADE

Environmental group Greenpeace has anchored its ship, *Rainbow Warrior*, near the Preem oil refinery in western Sweden to protest against expansion plans it says would increase carbon dioxide emissions by up to a million tonnes per year. The peaceful blockade prevented an oil tanker from entering the Brofjorden crude oil port. "We are stopping an environmental crime," said Isadora Wronski, head of Greenpeace Sweden.

ROBOT VISITOR

A robot called Pepper has been visiting care homes to help reduce feelings of loneliness in people who live there. The robot uses artificial intelligence to hold a conversation, and can even learn about people's tastes after it's been chatting to them for a while. It can also play music and teach exercise classes. A study of Pepper's impact showed that, after two weeks, there was a small but noticeable drop in feelings of loneliness among people it spoke to.



GROSS GOAT

A row over a smelly goat has ended with two sets of neighbours from the Bavarian village of Kulmbach locking horns in court! Neighbours said Zoltan the billy goat was so stinky that they couldn't even hang their washing out! His owners, who also owned 40 female goats, were ordered to put a stop to the stench – or face jail.

GAME OF ROME

Archaeologists working on the site of a new shopping centre in Chester have unearthed a rare Roman gaming piece. The highly polished lozenge is 29mm long and made from bone, with a distinctive Roman ring and dot pattern. It could be up to 2,000 years old, and is thought to be from a two-player military strategy game called *Ludus Latrunculorum*, or Game of Mercenaries. The site was once part of a Roman legion's barracks.



ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Monday 21 September is World Alzheimer's Day. The day (and the month of September) is used to raise awareness and support for those living with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. Dementia is a name for brain disorders that affect memory.

TOXIC PESTICIDES



An investigation into the export of toxic pesticides has found that the UK is the worst offender in Europe. This means that pesticides (chemicals used to kill bugs and protect plants) that are banned in the UK are being sold to some developing countries including South Africa and Brazil. Greenpeace's Unearthed team found that EU countries planned to sell 81,000 tonnes of chemicals that were banned from being used in their own fields.

POLLUTION DEATHS

As many as 13% of all deaths in the EU are linked to pollution, shows a report from the European Environment Agency. Pollution can cause cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and the agency says some deaths could be avoided by eliminating environmental risks. It's not all bad news, though – the report also says that the quality of water in Europe is generally good.

3. BIG NEWS

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Smoke from wildfires turns the San Francisco sky orange

Whole neighbourhoods have been destroyed by fire in Oregon

FIRES are continuing to rage across parts of the west coast of America. Blazes in the states of Oregon, California and Washington have been burning for three weeks now, with firefighters struggling to stop the spread.

As First News went to press, reports were still coming in of people dying, with more than 30 people already dead, but many more missing.

Tens of thousands of people have had to leave their homes due to the fires themselves or the air pollution caused by them.

There have been arguments between Democrats and Republicans, the two leading political parties, about what has caused the fires.

President Trump, a Republican, keeps blaming poor forest management. However, Democrat leaders of the

three states believe climate change is a bigger cause. Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, recognised poor forest management as “one point, but not **the** point.” He added: “The debate is over around climate change. This is a climate emergency. This is real and it’s happening.”

In Oregon, firefighters are battling 16 large fires. Washington is dealing with 15, while California has deployed almost 15,000 firefighters to tackle 28 major blazes. The total area scorched by the wildfires is larger than Wales.



A SURVEY by the charity Action for Children has revealed its fears that if the Government doesn’t do more to help, some families are going to struggle to feed and clothe their children this winter.

In the *Childhood During Coronavirus: Protecting Children from the Effects of Poverty* report, 66% of the charity’s key workers predict that, over the next six months, family incomes will go down.

Some 86% of the workers Action For Children spoke to felt the coronavirus crisis had left the families of the children they work with worse off financially.

Many families that were already facing hard times with money before the pandemic are now

finding their situation harder. Meanwhile, other families who were coping before lockdown are now struggling with money for the first time. Some 78% reported that the pandemic was having a bad impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the children they support.

Action for Children are urging the Government to take urgent action to help children, including giving more money to their families.

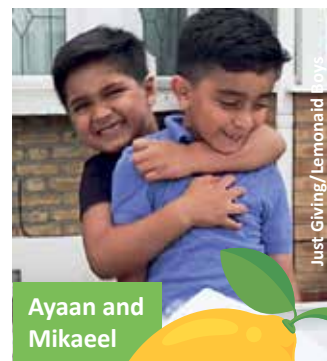
SCOUTS LAUNCH BADGE FOR FAKE NEWS SPOTTERS



SCOUTS can earn an updated Digital Citizen badge now, which is going to be awarded to eagle-eyed kids who can spot online lies.

Alongside regular badges for cycling and orienteering, Scouts can gain this revamped award by learning how to spot the difference between facts and opinions, clock fake news, find out how to deal with cyberbullying and protect their privacy.

Last year Ofcom found that more than half of 12 to 15 year-olds said they felt it was difficult to work out whether news on social media was accurate. The COVID-19 pandemic is believed to have made things worse with false facts and scary stories appearing regularly on social media.



Ayaan and Mikaeel

ANGELINA BACKS LEMONS FOR YEMEN KIDS

TWO young boys who were raising money for the people of Yemen were stunned to get a donation from a Hollywood star.

Six-year-olds Ayaan Moosa and Mikaeel Ishaq from east London started their lemonade stand after learning about the situation in Yemen. Tens of thousands of people have been killed during the civil war there, while another 24 million are believed to need aid to survive.

Maleficent star Angelina Jolie read about the boys’ efforts online and was so impressed she wrote to them with a donation.

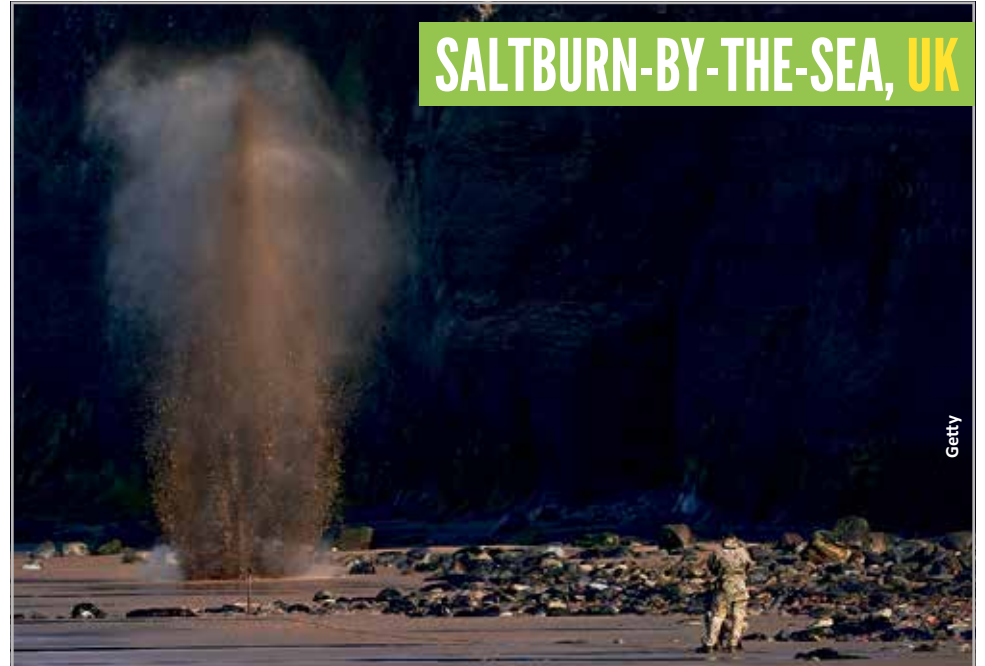
In her letter, the actor thanked the boys for what they’re doing for the people of Yemen and said, although she wasn’t able to buy a lemonade from them, she wanted to make a donation to the stand.

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

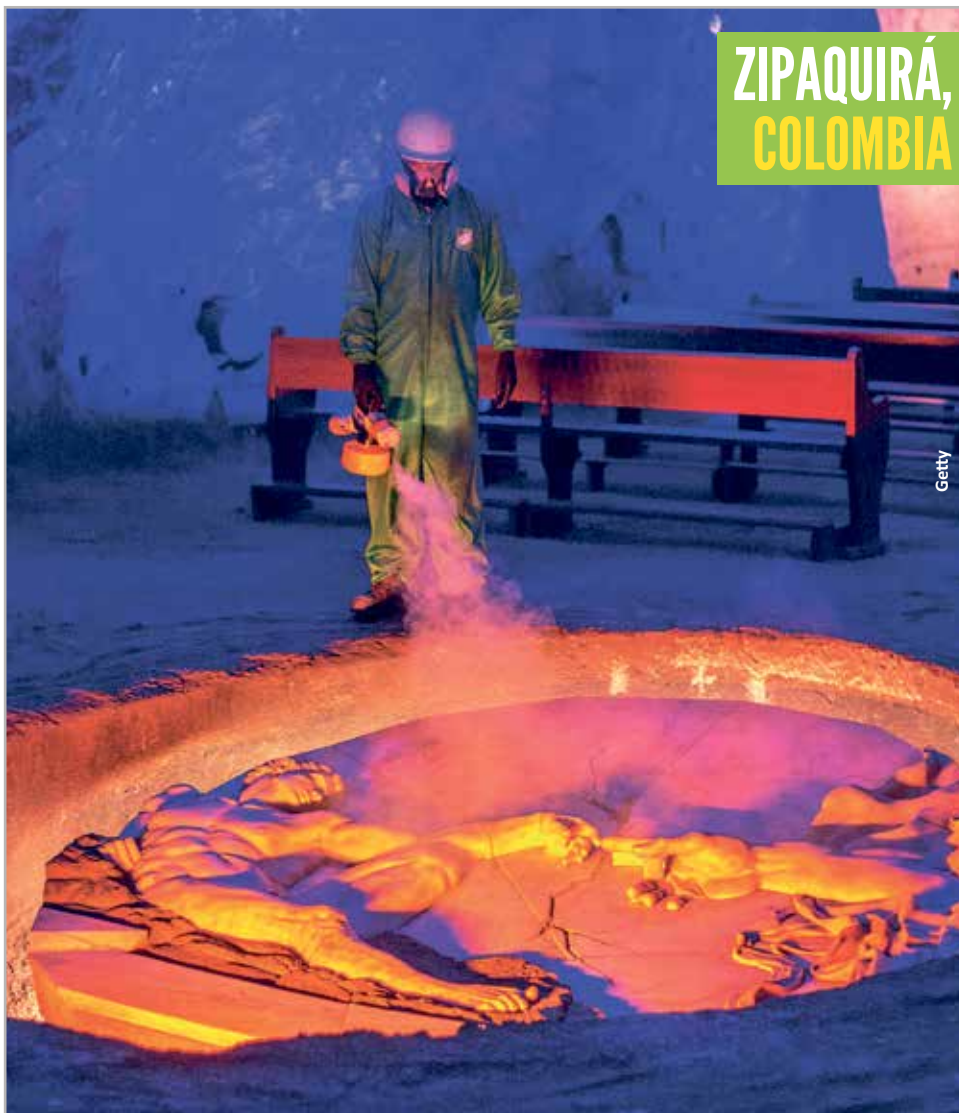
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ROBOTS are being used at Yatharth Super Speciality Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic. The robots are mounted with a camera, sensors and a display pad to help with communication between doctors and their patients in intensive care wards.



BOMB disposal soldiers detonate a hand grenade found on the beach. Azaan Jamil, 14, discovered the World War One grenade while hunting for fossils. His family called the authorities, who cleared the beach and destroyed the grenade in a controlled explosion.



A PERSON fumigates in the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá – which is 200m underground – ready for reopening after being closed due to the coronavirus.



A FLEET of 747-400 jumbo jets, operated by British Airways, sit parked at Cotswold Airport. British Airways, the world's biggest operator of Boeing 747-400s, is retiring its entire fleet of jumbo jets right away because of the damage the coronavirus has done to air travel.



KRAKOW'S landmarks changed their colour to white-red-white, the colours of the Belarusian flag, to show support for Belarusians following the brutal clashes with police that broke out in Belarusian cities.



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5. BIG NEWS



STICK TO SIX

Residents of Birmingham are no longer able to mix with any other households

GATHERINGS must be restricted to just six people now, as new COVID-19 restrictions are brought in to control a rapid rise in cases of the virus.

Last week, the UK Government announced that from Monday 14 September people in England could only meet in groups of six, both indoors and out. This rule applies to children and adults alike, and multiple households can be part of the six. Restaurants can only take bookings for a maximum of six people in one group now.

In Scotland, the rule of six applies to those aged 12 and above, and from a maximum of two households. Younger children can still meet in larger groups.

In Wales, up to 30 people can continue to meet outdoors, but a maximum of six aged 12+ can gather indoors. In Northern Ireland, the same rule applies indoors and a maximum of 15 can meet outside.

These rules do not apply to schools, workplaces, weddings or funerals, where larger groups can still gather.

In other developments:

- A spike in COVID-19 cases across the UK has seen the R number rise above 1. That's the number of people an infected person transmits the virus to. In areas with a particularly big outbreak of cases, such as Birmingham and Bolton, the Government has introduced further restrictions.
- Trials for a COVID-19 vaccine by a team at Oxford University were briefly suspended after one volunteer suffered a health problem. However, the trials are now up and running again. Experts say it's not unusual for vaccine trials to be paused in this way.
- The UK Government has launched a new public information campaign about the coronavirus. The theme is 'Hands. Face. Space.' The aim is to encourage us to wash our hands, cover our face when we are indoors in public places, and keep socially distanced from others.

EDITOR'S COMMENT



I AM so proud of teenager Dara, who has won a major book prize aged just 16!

More than anything, though, I am proud of his attitude. His words (below) are so inspiring to all of us – young and old – that we should speak up about the things we care about.

It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, you deserve to be heard. And Dara has proven that people listen when you have something to say.

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

THE UK'S RAREST LIZARD

MORE than 200 sand lizards are being released into the wild at Puddletown Forest in Dorset by the charity Marwell Wildlife, with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, and Forestry England. Ecologists say it has been "an exceptional breeding year".



BAD WEEK FOR...

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

SOME Christmas light switch-ons around the country have already been cancelled because of the coronavirus. Councils across Scotland have pulled the plug on a number of festive events, as have Bridgend and Felixstowe.



TOP BOOK PRIZE FOR DARA, 16

A TEENAGER has won a major UK writing prize.

Northern Irish author Dara McAnulty, 16, who has written for First News in the past, was awarded the 2020 Wainwright Prize for UK Nature Writing for his first book *Diary of a Young Naturalist*.

Dara, who began writing a nature blog when he was 12, said his win was "crazy" and "humbling". He added: "It is an astounding moment, not just for me but young people, young writers, young nature lovers. This tells our community that our voices matter, our ideas are worthy, our stories captivating."

Dara began writing *Diary of a Young Naturalist* when he was 14. As well as being about his love of nature, the diary is also his personal story – dealing with family life, changing schools, bullying and his autism.

Now, Dara has been put forward for another major writing prize! He has become the youngest writer ever to be longlisted for the UK's most prestigious (respected) non-fiction award, the Baillie Gifford prize.

If he wins the £50,000 award, he would be by far the youngest ever winner of a major UK literary prize. The winner will be announced on 24 November.



IN HIS OWN WORDS...

“ Writing is my form of expression. I rarely understand something until I've processed it through the act of writing. Words just seem to pour out and then life takes on a clarity that is otherwise just not achievable. Writing my book gave me a deeper understanding of me, my world and all the living things that inhabit it.

I believe young people have untapped gifts. I think we have a refreshing perspective on the world that deserves to be heard. We are creative and our voices could provide beautiful insight. So often we are told to wait... but I have almost proven that it's okay to follow your dreams. Let age be no barrier to sharing your unique thoughts with the world!

– Dara McAnulty

6. HOME NEWS

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HUMBERSIDE

Fastest wheelchair

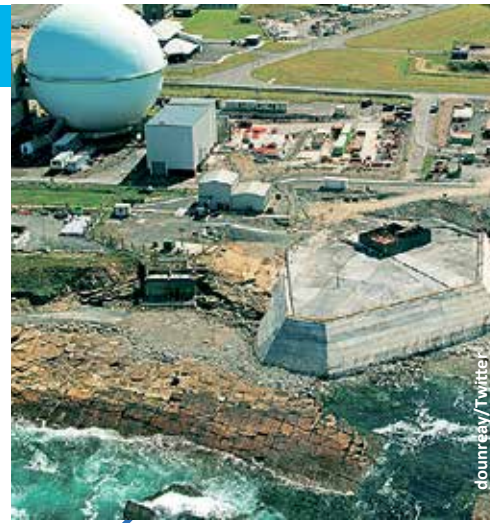
A man with an incurable illness has the speediest wheelchair in the UK. Jason Liversidge has motor neurone disease, which has left him mostly paralysed from the neck down. He recently used a special wheelchair to set a new UK time trial record of 95.05km/h. His wife Liz said: "Jason has always been an adrenaline junkie. He can't ride motorbikes now and he can't drive a car, so for him it seems a practical solution."



SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Nuclear clean-up

The world's deepest clean-up of a nuclear site will begin this autumn. The contract to demolish the site at Dounreay has now been awarded, which means the careful clean-up of a 65m-deep shaft can start. The site was used for nuclear research until 1994, and radioactive waste was dumped down the shaft from 1959 to 1977. Last month we reported on the plan to use robots to help with the work.



SHETLAND

Independence push

Shetland Islands Council has voted in favour of looking into gaining independence from Scotland. The islands, which have a population of 23,000, are located 160km off the coast of northeast Scotland. Councillors voted to explore how they could become financially and politically independent. Rather than becoming an independent country, though, the research will look into Shetland becoming a Crown Dependency, similar to Jersey and the Isle of Man. Before independence can go ahead, the island's citizens will get to have their say in a referendum.



WALES

Hunting for gold

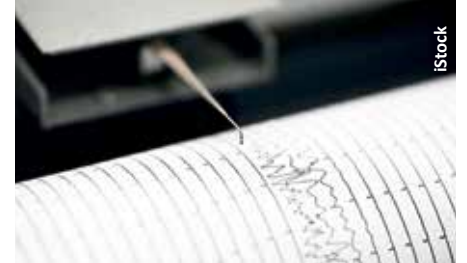
There's gold in them thar hills! At least, that's what Alba Mineral Resources are hoping. The company has begun drilling in a Welsh mine that has been closed for 30 years. Executive chairman George Frangeskides believes that soil samples suggest a "high possibility" of finding gold. Thanks in part to money worries caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the price of gold reached record highs in August.



BEDFORDSHIRE

Earthquake rumbles

An earthquake gave an early morning jolt to residents across Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire last week. Many people said the magnitude 3.3 quake made them think a car had crashed into their home. Carly Jan Smith, from Dunstable, said: "The whole room just went from side to side, really strongly." Luckily, there were no injuries reported. Dr Richard Lockett, of the British Geological Survey, said: "It was very minor on a global scale, but still quite large for the UK. We get about two of these a year."



SOMERSET

Paddling pools for seal pups

An RSPCA wildlife centre has appealed for paddling pools to prepare for the grey seal pup season. RSPCA West Hatch is currently looking after three injured pups named Chicory, Basil and Fennel. The pups were separated from their parents during stormy weather. However, the RSPCA has pointed out that seal pups use the beach to rest, and that you should keep an eye on a pup for 24 hours to see if its mum comes back, before contacting a rescue team.



DORSET

Teen wins sport design comp

A 13-year-old has won a design competition for her remote-controlled skateboard. Charlotte Geary came up with the idea for the Electrodeck, a motorised skateboard that reaches 15kph. Speaking to NewsChain, Charlotte said she was inspired by seeing "all the different electric scooters and bikes" around Bournemouth. The creative teen has now received a prototype of the Electrodeck from the Institution of Engineering and Technology, who organised the competition.



7. BIG NEWS

BOOK SALES
BOOM!

BOOK sales around the UK have boomed with their most successful first week of September ever.

The amazing sales saw the books market make £33.6m between 30 August and 5 September. Sales have been helped by the release of many books that came out late due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On 3 September – dubbed Super Thursday – the combination of scheduled and delayed releases saw the arrival of almost 600 new titles in stores.

Topping the charts was the first novel by Richard Osman, one of the hosts of TV quiz show, *Pointless*. The *Thursday Murder Club* sold 45,000 copies in just three days, leading bookseller Pat Booth to exclaim that he hadn't "seen anything like it since Harry Potter!"

Another Super Thursday is due on 1 October, with almost 800 new hardbacks coming out. Younger readers will have plenty to look forward to with new releases from authors like Philip Pullman and JK Rowling in the run-up to Christmas.

While it's great to hear that printed books are doing well, there's also good news for young digital readers, too. The National Literacy Trust has launched two new digital platforms. Virtual School Library gives primary school children access to books all year round, while Words For Life provides fun activities for families to help their children's reading.

The hope is that the platforms will help parents and teachers to support the literacy of children affected by COVID-19 and the closures of schools.



Ashleen during her remarkable climb

Mercury Press

GIRL AGED 7
CLIMBS THE ALPS

THE youngest person ever to climb Mount Kilimanjaro has now climbed the Alps – on her summer holidays!

Seven-year-old Ashleen Mandrick from Brighton was on holiday with her family in Venice when they made a last minute decision to climb the range's second-highest mountain. She ascended 4,400 metres to the Parrotspitze on Monte Rosa, becoming who is thought to be the youngest person to climb the Alps' second-highest mountain.

She originally wanted to climb Europe's highest peak, Mount Elbrus in Russia, but had to cancel plans because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Talking about her Alps climb, Ashleen told *The Times* newspaper: "It was really amazing. I loved the crevasses. They were so deep I couldn't even see the bottom. I hoped we didn't fall into one, it would have been difficult to get out. I loved the whole adventure." Well done, Ashleen!

DIVERSITY
SUBJECTED TO
RACIST ABUSE

Members of Diversity, from left, Jordan Banjo, Perri Kiely and Ashley Banjo

ASHLEY Banjo has revealed that he got racial abuse and threats following Diversity's dance routine inspired by Black Lives Matter on Britain's Got Talent.

The dance troupe's moving performance, which included references to George Floyd's death, was widely praised. Floyd was a black American who was killed by a white police officer, prompting major protests.

TV watchdog Ofcom has received more than 20,000 complaints about the routine. Ashley took to Instagram to talk about what happened, saying he

had received racial abuse and threats over the routine. However, he also said that, despite the negativity, "the positive response has been huge, so thank you so much to everyone who has supported, shown love and stood by what we did. We are feeling positive, proud, happy, confident and we stand by every single decision we made with that performance."

BREXIT
DEAL UP
IN THE AIR

GUESS what's back in the news? Brexit, that's what!

Although the UK officially left the European Union (EU) in January, we are still in what's known as the "transition period". That means we still follow EU rules and are still part of the trading market within the EU until the end of this year.

The UK and EU agreed a Withdrawal Agreement last year, which put in place some rules for both sides. At the time, Prime Minister Boris Johnson described the Agreement as "oven-ready" and "great".

Earlier this year, the UK Government and the EU started talks over a trade deal, to continue the flow of goods between EU countries and the UK. But these talks have not gone well so far. Mr Johnson has given a deadline of 15 October for a deal to be struck. If nothing is agreed, there's a chance there could be disruption to imports and exports of various goods, including food and medicine.

The chances of securing a deal weren't helped when it was revealed last week that Mr Johnson wants to pass a new law that could alter key parts of the Withdrawal Agreement. One of his own ministers has admitted this could lead to the UK breaking international law. Several MPs from all parties – including five former prime ministers – have criticised Mr Johnson's decision. Some Brexit-supporting politicians have asked the PM to think again.

As *First News* went to press, the proposed new law passed its first vote in the House of Commons. That means most MPs supported it. It is due to be debated again on Monday 21 September.



Boris Johnson has been criticised by politicians in his own party

8. WORLD NEWS

FirstNews • Issue 744 • 18 – 24 September 2020

EUROPE



● COVID-19 cases rise

Coronavirus cases are increasing across Europe, and new rules are being brought in to stop the spread of the disease throughout the continent. Eastern and central European countries, like the Czech Republic, now face a second wave that's expected to be worse than the first, while both Spain and France's daily case totals have passed 10,000 for the first time since March. The World Health Organization has warned that the rising figures may mean more people die in the coming months. Young people normally only get mild cases.



USA



● Treasure mystery

An eccentric millionaire who claimed to have hidden a chest of treasure in the Rocky Mountains has died before fully explaining the mystery. Forrest Fenn, who was 90 when he died at home in New Mexico, claimed 10 years ago that he'd stashed \$2m (£1.5m) of loot. He left clues in a book and poem he wrote, and more than 350,000 people are thought to have joined the search. He left the treasure hunters fuming after claiming this year that the haul had been found, but never revealing who had discovered it, or where it had been.



NETHERLANDS



● Mission of mercy

The wine-making nuns of Sint Catharinadal convent in Oosterhout ran into some unexpected bother when a Dutch airline cancelled an order for 20,000 bottles due to the coronavirus. But the sisters, who rely on the income from the wine for their upkeep, managed to sell every single bottle through a website set up to help farmers sell excess produce they were stuck with because of the virus.



SUDAN



● Flood appeal

The Red Cross has launched an emergency appeal for funds to help people affected by the flooding disaster in Sudan. Heavy rainfall has been increasing since July, and 16 of the country's 18 states are flooded now. Volunteers are helping people to move to higher ground and provide emergency support. The flooding has affected more than 500,000 people, who are in desperate need of shelter and essential supplies.



JAPAN



● Most over-100s ever

The number of people in Japan who are more than 100 years old has topped 80,000 for the first time, shows Government data. There are now 9,475 men, and 70,975 women centenarians. Japan's population has been aging rapidly in the last few years, which means that there are fewer babies being born, while people already alive are living longer. Japan's average life expectancy is 87 for women and 81 for men – both record high figures for the country.



GERMANY



● Navalny wakes up

Alexei Navalny, political rival and critic of Russian president Vladimir Putin, is able to breathe on his own again after being poisoned by the Russian nerve agent novichok. The German hospital where Navalny recovered identified novichok as the agent used to poison him. A spokesperson for Navalny said that he will be returning to Russia when he's recovered fully.



OUR WORLD



NAME: ISOBEL
LIVES: NEW ZEALAND

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
WWW.AMNESTY.ORG.UK/VOTING



AS in the UK, the voting age in New Zealand is 18. The Make it 16 campaign aims to lower the voting age in New Zealand to 16, the same age you can leave home or get married.

Seventeen-year-old Isobel is part of the Make it 16 campaign. "In 1893, New Zealand was the first nation in the world to give women the vote," she explains. "Given this strong history of enfranchisement and inclusivity, it's incredibly disappointing that we still seek to exclude 16 and 17-year-olds, people who desperately want and need a voice."

"I am just a young person that has an opinion and wants to be heard, but instead of being listened to, I'm ignored and dismissed as inexperienced or naive. "Our young people will never be listened to

until our democracy and by extension our society is directly accountable to them.

"Perhaps unlike any other generation, our youth have an interest in ensuring that society is not only sustainable and fair now but into the future. Surely this generation with the greatest incentive to enact positive change should not be silenced.

"I joined Make it 16, and intend to "Make it 16" because the youth are passionate and engaged – because the youth have a voice but are denied it."





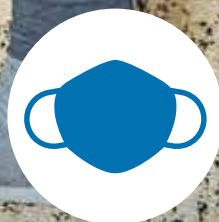
HM Government

NHS

**I make
space to
protect
my nan.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT ► CONTROL THE VIRUS ► SAVE LIVES

MEGA SHARK

Megalodon with a modern-day shark



Getty

SHARK ancestor the megalodon was known to be huge, but its true size has now been calculated more accurately – and its dorsal fin was as big as a human!

Working out the size of the megalodon (which means “big tooth”) from the few fossils that remain has been a problem. The fossils are mainly teeth that are about the size of an adult human hand. Scientists were able to say that its average length was probably around 16 metres but little else. Now, a new method has been used to predict its shape and exactly how big it was.

The study was carried out by Jack Cooper, a shark-mad scientist, with other colleagues at Bristol University.

The aim was to get a more precise calculation using several mathematical measurements and comparing them with living relatives of the shark family.

Previous studies have compared megalodon to the great white shark, but it is not a direct ancestor because the megalodon is equally related to several other modern-day sharks. The scientists expanded the comparisons

to five other sharks, including the shortfin makos, the salmon shark and the great white.

The study relied on the idea that shark babies start out as little adults and change size but not shape as they grow older. Professor Mike Benton, who oversaw the project, explained that if, like humans, the babies had big heads, it would have been difficult to predict the size of the adult. The scientists were, however, able to take the growth curves of the modern sharks and project the size up to a length of 16 metres. This would give the megalodon a head nearly five metres long and a tail around four metres high.

The information that the study provides is important in the world of palaeontology as it helps experts gain a better understanding of the animal’s body and why it might have eventually become extinct.



Megalodon tooth

Getty

ROOT DISCOVERY

BETTER food quality and less pesticide on crops could be possible following the discovery of a special protein in the roots of plants.

Researchers from Nottingham University have found that the protein helps to control the water and minerals that are taken up by the plant from the earth. Plants have a very ordered system that enables them to take up what they need to grow. By discovering how they do it, scientists believe they can protect plants from the effects of climate change and a range of other things that affect crops, such as flooding, drought or the levels of minerals in the soil. Adding other elements normally found in fertiliser would also reduce the need to actually buy fertiliser, making crops cheaper to produce.

In order to keep up with the increase in world population, crop production will have to double by 2050. This discovery could be important in getting us there.



iStock

This report is from the Science Museum in London

BORN on 20 September 1910 in the USA, mathematician Dorothy Vaughan contributed towards major milestones in space exploration.

Showing academic prowess from an early age, Vaughan received a university scholarship and worked as a maths teacher before joining NACA, now known as NASA. She became the US space agency’s first African-American manager.

It wasn’t until the Second World War that the US banned racial discrimination in hiring within the defence industry. Opportunities opened up for many more people than before.

As new opportunities emerged, Vaughan’s expertise was recognised and she was hired as a ‘human computer’, producing complex mathematical calculations by hand. She was also an expert programmer and, by sharing her expertise with colleagues, Vaughan created a valuable team who would continue to contribute to the space programme for decades to come.



NASA

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Nicolas Lefaudaux

AN awe-inspiring picture of the Andromeda galaxy (above) has clinched a top title for French photographer Nicolas Lefaudaux.

The Royal Observatory, Greenwich has announced the winner of The Insight Investment Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2020 competition, ahead of an exhibition of the best entries. Judge Ed Robinson said: “To create a photograph that gives us the impression that it is just within our physical reach is truly magical.”

The competition attracted more than 5,000 entries from across the globe in several categories.

Winner of the Young Competition was ten-year-old Alice Fock Hang from Réunion, with her stunning picture *The Four Planets and the Moon* (below). The photo shows our moon with Jupiter, Saturn, Venus, Mercury and the star Antares over the Indian Ocean.

The BBC’s *Sky at Night* Magazine’s Art Editor, Steve Marsh, who was also a judge, praised the variety and talent revealed in this year’s competition, describing it as a “real feast for the eyes”.

The exhibition, which is accompanied by an official book of the very best photographs, opens at the National Maritime Museum on 23 October and runs until 8 August 2021.



Alice Fock Hang

First News has teamed up with  show **FYI** and the **BFI's Young Audience Content Fund** to make a series of videos for you to watch at home or at school, called *I Don't Get It*. The plan is to explain stuff that can be complicated or difficult to understand. This week, FYI presenter Braydon asks:

ENDANGERED ANIMALS

CAN WE SAVE THEM?

THE world is home to some of the most awesome creatures on Earth but, sadly, many wild animal populations are disappearing at an alarming rate.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

One hundred years ago, 1.8 billion people lived on our planet. Today there are 7.8 billion – that's a lot of people. It means there's far less space for wild animals, like African lions, for example. A century ago there were as many as 200,000, but now, the number could be as low as 23,000.

Biologist and wildlife TV presenter Patrick Aryee explains why population growth is such a problem: "We, as humans, have forced lions into smaller and smaller territories, and we have moved into their natural habitat. The result of that is the inevitable conflict between wildlife and people. The locals are just trying to preserve their livelihood, but with lions on the loose that can take their cattle and even people, they are often forced into killing these majestic creatures."

Another big threat is from poaching, which has an impact on animals like rhinos, tigers and elephants. Every year about 20,000 African elephants are killed by poachers – that's an average of 55 a day. What makes them such a target are their valuable tusks, made from a very strong natural material called ivory. Just one tusk can be worth thousands of pounds because the ivory is often carved into expensive ornaments. Rhino horns are also extremely valuable, crushed into a powder that's used in traditional medicines in countries like Vietnam and China.

Trading rhino horns and ivory tusks has been banned for decades, so how do they still end up being sold?

Patrick says: "Ivory and rhino horn are worth so much that criminal gangs find new ways to smuggle them across a border. And, while many countries have banned their sale, they're often available under the counter, illegally, and many authorities often turn a blind eye."

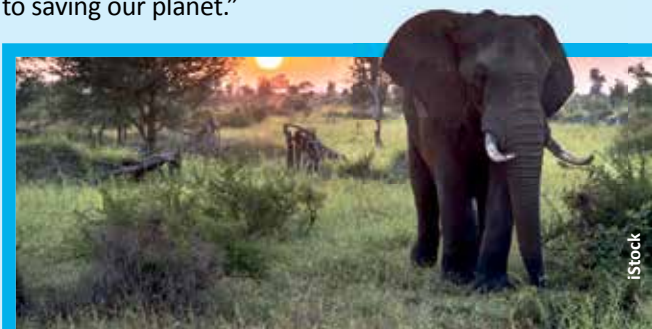
Humans are also chopping down rainforests at an alarming rate, leaving animals like orangutans close to dying out completely. And we're even causing our climate to heat up, threatening polar bears who live on the melting ice caps, and elephants, who struggle to cope as droughts get worse because they need a lot of fresh water to survive.



WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

Luckily, there are some simple things that we can do to protect wildlife. The first thing is to check what you're eating – see if it's got palm oil in it. Palm oil is used in stuff like biscuits, ice cream, bread and sausage rolls. They are all really tasty, but it's one of the big reasons rainforests are being destroyed, making way for huge palm oil plantations. It doesn't mean you have to stop eating biscuits, but look for products that use sustainable palm oil, grown in ways that do not harm the rainforest.

Patrick says: "Understanding how buying the food we eat impacts the animals in the wild is a great start, because only then can we start to change our habits, and the products that we buy. Another one is avoiding single-use plastics. It's dangerous not only to birds, but also to ocean wildlife. And the final thing you can do is to team up with your friends and family, and campaign for governments to take more action in the fight against the global climate crisis. Your voice is the most powerful tool when it comes to saving our planet."



Kids – you can watch the *I Don't Get It* video on endangered animals at first.news/IDGI

Teachers – you can watch the film in the classroom using our tie-in award-winning educational resources at schools.firstnews.co.uk

Next week: *I Don't Get It – Climate Change*



JURASSIC WORLDS

JURASSIC World: Camp Cretaceous is the first animated series in the *Jurassic World* franchise, and it launches on Netflix this week! Paul-Mikél Williams who plays Darius talks to us about being part of the show and why he loves the *Jurassic World* films.



● What can you tell us about your character?

I play Darius, the dinosaur genius. He is most excited about being at camp and seeing his one true love since he could walk – dinosaurs! He may be young, and not entirely good at smooth talk, but there is nothing he can't do if he sets his mind to it! Darius' love for and knowledge of dinosaurs, the ability to wear his heart on his sleeve, and his constant optimism and determination make him priceless to his camp family.

● Do you have anything in common with him?

Well, myself and Darius are both very optimistic, as I too always try to make the best of every situation. We're both very enthusiastic, and no matter what, we always keep smiling and make sure everyone around us also keeps smiling.

● It's the first animated Jurassic project.

Did you get any input into how your character looks and moves?

I didn't get input on the character's movements and his appearance, but there was definitely a brief given around Darius's personality and character traits such as his weaknesses, his fears, his strengths, those type of things. Darius has tons of positivity and fearlessness, and that's what I can't wait for everyone to see!

● What was your relationship with Jurassic Park/World before being cast in the show?

The series is legendary! The novel debuted in 1990 (30 years ago) and the franchise is still on fire! I love the series, and still continue to watch the movies with full



intent of being excited, scared, and sometimes even laughing. My love for this franchise will always be there, and to be a part of it is one hundred percent a dream come true.

● Did you binge-watch all of the previous Jurassic projects for research? Which is your favourite and why?

I watched *Jurassic World* and *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom* about 30 times when I booked this job. The graphics and CGI are simply stunning, and it gave me a pretty good handle on that fear factor and action that I wanted to bring through Darius. My favourite? Oh, boy. It's got to be a tie between the two *Jurassic World* movies currently out. The thrills, the chills and the dinosaurs make it such a must watch series, not to mention the emotion and the story of both of them made me cry, twice!

● How do you think you would do at Camp Cretaceous?

To survive, I would need at least five other people to help me out – or at least one person to keep me company! There's no way I could be alone, but, if I had to be, I would probably last about two weeks or so!

● Are you brave and can you keep your cool when it comes to scary situations?

Not at ALL! I am nothing like Darius in that sense. However, I'm also not one to throw myself into scary situations, so I try my best not to make that happen.

Although, if I have to, I would definitely try my best to be the leader and get everyone to safety!

● What's the best thing you learned about dinosaurs while making the show?

My most favourite thing was learning how to pronounce the many, many dinosaurs' names! From *Compsognathus* to *Parasaurolophus* all the way to the right inflections in the word *T rex*! The journey was intense, but also goofy and fun. I had the best time.

● Do you have a favourite dinosaur and why?

Ankylosaurus is always going to be my favourite. The "gentle giant" type always has a place in my heart, and they won't try to eat me! Maybe I have a little more in common with Darius than I thought!



● What was the best part about making this series?

There's no way I can choose just one! From recording and joking with my cast-mates to seeing the early ideas, the experience has been unbelievable. *Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous* taught me even more about family and friendship than I already knew, as well as about overcoming hard times with determination. The best part about making this series is that it can bring families together.

● What would you like to happen to your character next?

Well, personally, I would love for Darius to have a full day to himself to just chill with the dinosaurs. He's wanted to go to *Jurassic World* all his life, and a day to himself amongst the dinos would be very cool!



Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous launches 18 September on Netflix

THIS WEEK



1 Our favourite snowman is getting his own short film! *Once Upon a Snowman* is a brand new animated short that tells us everything we need to know about Frozen's Olaf (pictured in *Frozen 2*) and where he came from. What happened to him after Elsa made him? How did he end up in the forest with Anna and Kristoff? And what is it about summer that he loves so much? All these questions and more will be answered in October when the short film arrives on Disney+.

2 From 1 October, Disney Channel, Disney Jnr and DisneyXD will move to Disney+. This means the channels will no longer be available to watch on any platforms unless you have a subscription to Disney+.

3 If you can't wait for the return of *Strictly* Come Dancing next month, then tune into the brand new spin-off, which launches this week (19 September). *Strictly: The Best Of* is a four-part series looking at some of the best performances on the show so far. It kicks off with *Strictly: The Best of Movies*. It starts on BBC1 on Saturday at 7:30pm.



PICS OF THE WEEK

FOR the first time ever you can go behind the scenes at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park and The Seas with Nemo & Friends at EPCOT in Florida, thanks to a brand new series.

Josh Gad, the voice of Olaf in *Frozen*, narrates the documentary, *Magic of Disney's Animal Kingdom*, which takes you into the world of some of the 5,000 animals that live on the parks, including Grace, a brand new baby gorilla.

The eight-part series was made using cranes, underwater cameras and a host of other state-of-the-art equipment to get you closer than ever before. *The Magic of Disney's Animal Kingdom* launches on Disney+ on 25 September.



How does it feel to be joining the panel of *Britain's Got Talent*?

As if 2020 couldn't get any crazier! It's super humbling and super exciting! I remember being on that stage last year and talking about how it's been ten years since we won, and how people should never tell you you can't do something. Walking on that stage as a 20-year-old street dancer from the streets of East London and now I am walking out there and stepping in for the big man!

You've got some big shoes to fill!

If I was stepping in for any of the other judges then I'd feel that way, I'd feel nervous about it being big shoes to fill. But with Simon his shoes are well and truly on, no-one can ever replace him or fill his shoes. I just feel like I am doing a job for him because Simon can never be replaced in that way. I'm just an addition to the panel. It actually makes me less nervous, the fact I'm stepping in for Simon. There's no-one more qualified than Simon when it comes to judging variety acts, and if you're going to sit on that panel you better have some decent qualifications. But I think in terms of BGT I am a weirdly qualified person purely because of my journey on the show.

Will you be tough like him?

I'll be tough on everyone! I won't be Mr Mean, just Mr Honest. With a show like BGT there's no mucking about. It's not a celeb-based show, it's not like everyone's there just for entertainment, this is life-changing stuff. I'm going to be sitting there questioning



what they are doing, why would you use your two minutes to show the world what they can do and then do that? If that's how I feel, then I'll say it!

You are testament to how life-changing this show is...

Absolutely. The other judges get it, of course they do, they've had as much experience as anyone. But they can never understand the show in the same way as I do. Hearing that title music for the show, even now sitting at home, when I hear that music it sends waves through my stomach. Even now all these years later, I hear that music and Ant and Dec saying, "Here's Diversity...". It gives me goosebumps just thinking about it. Every time we go out there on that stage I think that this is us walking back in there after ten years and still being able to hold our own. I don't know if anywhere in the world any other act has done that.



ASHLEY BANJO

BRITAIN'S Got Talent is back on our screens with new judge Ashley Banjo! It's time for the judges to get brutal and choose which acts make it through to the final!

BABY BOOM!

LAST week we mentioned that there has been a gorilla baby boom in Uganda. Here's the full story...

Seven young gorillas have been born so far in 2020, compared to just three in the whole of 2019. All of the babies were born in the same gorilla family, living in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park on Uganda's southwestern border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Around 400 rare gorillas live in the national park, in around 20 different family groups. The dense rainforest is monitored by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), who shared the news of the new arrivals.

Bashir Hangi, spokesman for the UWA said: "As conservationists we're chest-thumping, we are excited."

The gorilla baby boom is being put down to conservation efforts by the UWA to protect the animals from poachers and illegal wildlife traffickers. A drop in the number of tourists in the area since the COVID-19 pandemic hit may also have helped.



PINE martens may be helpful friends when it comes to saving red squirrels, says new research.

A survey has revealed that the population of red squirrels is seeing a boost in areas where pine martens are found.

A team of researchers from Queen's University in Belfast believe that pine martens are a natural predator for grey squirrels, which is helping to reduce their numbers. While pine martens will hunt red squirrels, it appears that they prefer grey squirrels, which are bigger and easier to find.

Red squirrels and pine martens are native species to Europe, so one theory is that they may have evolved to live alongside each other. Grey squirrels are an invasive species from America that have caused a huge drop in red squirrel numbers in the UK. Just a few pockets of the smaller red squirrels can be found across the country.



A TWO-TOED sloth has been born at ZSL London Zoo.

The infant has been named Truffle and is already exploring the zoo's Rainforest Life exhibit with mum, Marilyn, and dad, Leander.

Two-toed sloths are born very well developed, with their eyes already open and ready to eat solid foods. In fact, Truffle is already sniffing around for snacks! The young sloth will spend the next six months clinging to mum's chest as she moves around. The famously slow-moving animals live alongside other rainforest animals at the zoo including titi monkeys, tree anteaters, emperor tamarin monkeys and red-footed tortoises. See if you can spot Truffle when you next visit!

BITESIZE NEWS

THE GOVERNMENT has announced that badger

culls will take place in 11 new areas of England, despite plans to vaccinate instead of cull. Up to 70,000 badgers could be shot in a bid to stop the spread of bovine TB, which can kill cattle.

15. SPECIAL REPORT

FirstNews ● Issue 744 ● 18 – 24 September 2020

AT the end of last week, a group of 108 ordinary citizens from Climate Assembly UK released a series of recommendations for how Britain should go about reaching its target to get to 'net zero' emissions by 2050. Their final report, *Climate Assembly UK: The Path To Net Zero*, stressed that people and politicians will have to work together, and that it should all be done in as fair a way as possible, so that vulnerable people aren't left behind or disadvantaged.



An Assembly member asking a question after an expert's presentation

Fabio De Paola, PA

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN



Sir David Attenborough giving a talk at one of the Assembly's meetings

WHAT'S IN THE REPORT?

The report says that the UK should take this opportunity to fight climate change and COVID-19 at the same time. It also says that politicians from all parties should work together to win the public's support for the changes we have to make.

"This is not the time nor the issue for scoring party political points," the report says. "The COVID-19 pandemic that has caused so much suffering brings with it new considerations, but it does not change the need for progress towards the UK's climate goals."

Two of the main points the report makes is that these changes should be fair, and look after nature.

"As with most things in life, the solutions to climate change are neither easy nor free," it says, "but they need to be fair. Fair to people with jobs in different sectors. Fair to people with different incomes, travel preferences and housing arrangements. Fair to people who live in different parts of the UK."

"We strongly support measures that have a positive impact on biodiversity and wildlife," the report adds, "while also helping the UK move towards its net zero goal."

Some of the specific recommendations in the 556-page report include:

- A ban on the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars by 2030-2035. The report says that greener cars are better than telling people to drive less.
- Improved public transport, with cheaper fares, more bus routes and more frequent services.
- Making air travel greener so that people can still go on holiday, but taxing people more if they travel often or over long distances.
- People should be asked to cut their meat and dairy intake by 20-40%, although this should be voluntary rather than compulsory. Farmers should be given support to deal with the change, and animal welfare standards should not drop.

The Government has been asked to give its official response by the end of the year. Since the recommendations have come from members of the public, it should make it easier for ministers to ask people to go along with them.

WHAT IS THE CLIMATE ASSEMBLY?

In June 2019, the Government made a legal commitment to reach net zero by 2050. 'Net' in this sense means 'overall', so because it's impossible to have no emissions at all, the Government will have to do something to take any remaining emissions out of the atmosphere, either by doing things like planting more trees or using technology.

So to get to net zero, six House of Commons committees got together to set up the Climate Assembly UK. The members were chosen from across the country, with a mix of ages from 16-79, and representing all ethnicities and parts of the UK.

Over six sessions, the Assembly members were told about the various problems that we face, and had to decide the best way to overcome them.



TELL YOUR FRIENDS

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16. **PUZZLE FUN** ? ?

FirstNews

● Issue 744

● 18 – 24 September 2020

WIN!
CUTETITOS
PIZZAITOS

CAN you complete our sudoku puzzle, filling in the numbers one to nine?

Send in your answers and four lucky readers will win a Cutetitos Pizzaitos. Cutetitos are now cheesier than ever, in brand new series 5 Pizzaitos! Cutetitos Pizzaitos are adorable, super-soft, stuffed animals wrapped and hidden in a pizza blanket ready to be unrolled and discovered! To find out if your Cutetito's personality is cheesy, so cheesy, extra cheesy or super cheesy, just check out its "hot spot" – a pizza slice-shaped icon you can find on its hip! There are 12 brand new Cutetitos to collect in fun new patterns! Some are SUPER RARE – can you find them?

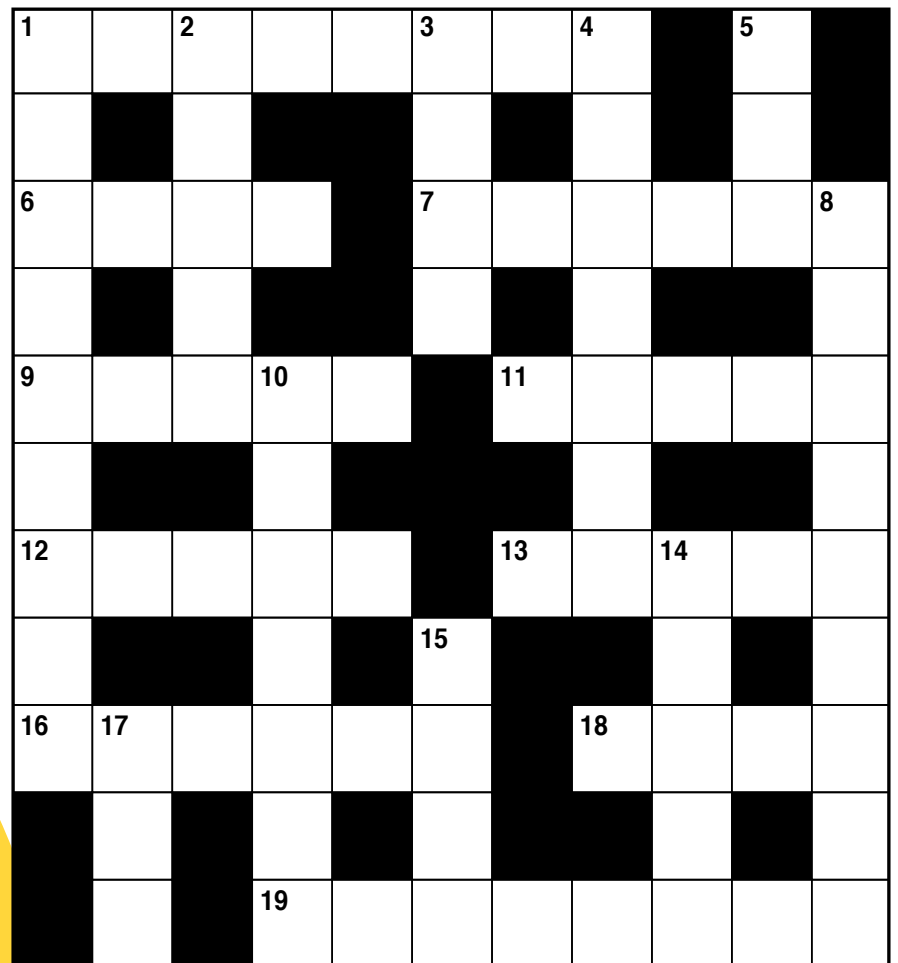
4	9	1				6	5	8
2			8	5	4			9
8	1		7		3		6	5
6	7		1		5		4	2
1			2	6	8			4
5	4	2				8	1	6

WORD
LADDER

SEE if you can get from the top of the ladder to the bottom by changing one letter at a time to make a new word.

HAND**OUTS****CROSSWORD**

JUST for fun this week! Can you complete our crossword puzzle by using the clues below?

**ACROSS**

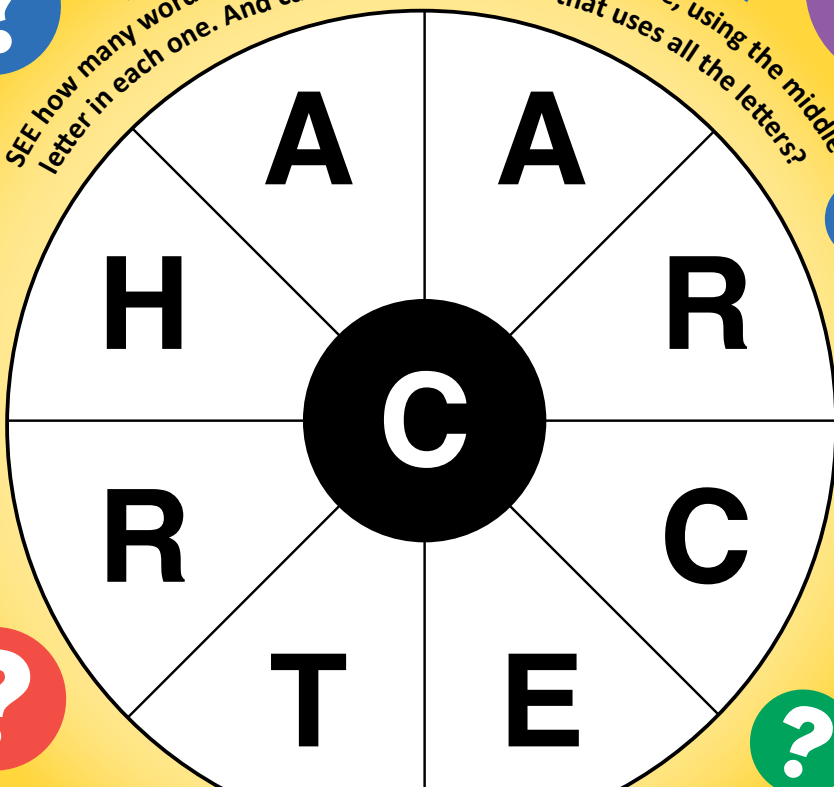
- 1 Frozen dessert food (3,5)
6 Talk to a god (4)
7 Save (6)
9 A rope used for catching cattle or horses (5)
11 You turn this to move a bike (5)
12 Perfect (5)
13 Fastening with string (5)
16 Machine that makes things move; motor (6)
18 Raise or pick up (4)
19 A 26.2 mile race (8)

DOWN

- 1 Done without thinking; plum ivies (anagram) (9)
2 Tests (5)
3 Currency in France and Spain (4)
4 Something that is difficult or impossible to understand (7)
5 A large, flightless bird resembling an ostrich (3)
8 Give greater knowledge about something (9)
10 Sporting arena (7)
14 E.g. from Dublin (5)
15 Rip (4)
17 Nothing (3)

WORD WHEEL

SEE how many words of three or more letters you can make, using the middle letter in each one. And can you find the word that uses all the letters?



17. PUZZLE FUN

HOW TO ENTER:

Send your finished puzzles by email to win@firstnews.co.uk. Don't forget to put **Puzzles 744** in the subject box. We're afraid that we can't accept postal entries for now. The closing date for entries is **Thursday 24 September 2020**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

JUST for fun this week, can you spot the five changes we've made to this picture from *Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous*?



WIN! A SCRUFF-A-LUVS BUNDLE

REVEAL and rescue an enchanted friend with new Scruff-a-Luvs Fantasy!

These abandoned fantastical Scruff-a-Luvs are lost, scruffy, and huddled in a ball. Soothe them with a warm bath, dry, and groom their fur with the included comb to discover what magical pets they really are!

Will you find a Pegacorn, Griffin or Dragon? These adorable pets have beautiful glittery fur and sparkling accessories! Once you have made them fluffy, you can attach their broken wings, add their collar and tag to begin a new enchanting adventure.



Seven lucky winners will each win a Scruff-a-Luvs Fantasy and Scruff-a-Luvs Jungle Friend. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these is not a type of parrot?
a) macaw b) puffin c) parakeet

Find out more at www.scruff-a-luvs.com
Available from Amazon, Argos, Smyths and The Entertainer

ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY LION

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 1 October 2020.

WIN! RUPERT BEAR PRESENTATION SETS

ROYAL Mail has announced it is issuing a set of eight stamps to mark the 100th birthday of Rupert Bear.

Created in 1920 and first illustrated by Mary Tourtel, Rupert Bear was a check-trouser-wearing young bear who lived with his parents in the country village of Nutwood. Many of the early Rupert stories were inspired by fairyland characters and sometimes featured medieval knights, ogres and witches. The Rupert Little Bear Library Series ran to 46 issues and was published periodically between 1928 and 1936.

The set is made up of four pairs of stamps, each pair featuring two illustrations from one of Rupert's adventures: *Rupert's Rainy Adventure*, *Rupert and the Mare's Nest*, *Rupert And The Lost Cuckoo* and *Rupert's Christmas Tree*.

The stamps feature the artwork of Alfred Bestall, who wrote and illustrated more than 270 Rupert stories.

We have 15 Rupert Bear Presentation Stamp Packs up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

How old is Rupert Bear?
a) 80 b) 90 c) 100



ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY BEAR

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see below. The closing date is 1 October 2020.

COMPETITIONS: You can enter First News competitions in one of two ways. 1. Go to firstnews.co.uk/competitions and follow the instructions. 2. Write to us at 'competition name' (e.g. Holiday), First News, 7 Playhouse Court, 62 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 0AT. **Please note:** First News will not share your personal details with third parties. First News will only use your details to contact the competition winners. First News competitions are open to those aged 17-and-under and residents of the UK & Republic of Ireland, except employees of First News, First Group Enterprises Ltd, Reach plc and any associated companies and their families. Winners will be the first correct entries drawn after the closing dates. No purchase necessary. No responsibility can be accepted for entries that have been lost or damaged in transit. First News will not enter into any correspondence. All winners will be notified accordingly and their names and addresses will be available on request. No cash alternative for any prizes will be offered. The winner may be required to partake in media activity relating to the competition.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS:

Spot the difference: Drawer handle on right removed, glass of water coloured, model car on shelf changed to digger, foot removed under table, mouse on sofa

Word ladder: nice, lice, lick, lock, look, book.

Word wheel: pollution.

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

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TOP CAT



WE grabbed a lovely Zoom chat with Dermot O'Leary, who told us about his new book, and how he got into writing.

What is Toto The Ninja Cat and the Mystery Jewel Thief all about?

Toto has had a terrific six months, she's kind of relaxed because there hasn't been much crime going on since Catstonbury, her last adventure. She's also been picking up bits and pieces of work from Sheila, the head of the police dogs, doing a bit of diplomatic protection. The French Ambassador wants to come and see the Cat Crown Jewels, but they've been stolen.

Toto's boss Larry gets framed for the crime so, with her two brothers, Silver and Socks, they have to prove Larry's innocence and find the real culprit.

Where did you get the inspiration?

Pre-lockdown I was doing a lot of walking around London. There was a wonderful walking tour guide called Simon who took us on a theatreland walk, down by the river. From that I had a fair idea that I wanted to write a crime-based caper. Then we did a walking tour of Hampstead and found the pond at the top of Hampstead Hill – it's where the horses used to drink – and I thought, 'That would be a great place for the treasure to be kept.' I also went to the Museum of London and saw the old pictures of the medieval St Paul's Cathedral. Simon mentioned that from the top of Hampstead you can see St Paul's. And then I researched historic cats and I decided the story would start with Tom, who was Dick Whittington's cat. And it just sort of took off from there.

Did you get to do lots more writing than usual during lockdown?

Actually, the first two weeks of lockdown I had to finish this draft. So mostly it's been Toto-related. I've started to come up with a couple of ideas as well.

Have you decided what Toto will get up to next?

I like to take my characters to different places. But in terms of where I can go next with them and how I can embellish them, it's more 'what if so-and-so gets into trouble?' I love history too, so I try to find ideas for children that will engage them in history without being too hard or too preachy, or the subject matter being too difficult.

Do Toto, Silver and Socks get fan mail?

Yeah, when we do book tours I get a lot of kids coming up with things made for Toto, like keyrings or cushions. It's really sweet. And kids do come dressed as Toto, which is marvellous.

Are you tempted to attach those catcams on your own cats so you can see what they get up to?

Toto's blind so she is almost always with us. But Socks absolutely, definitely.

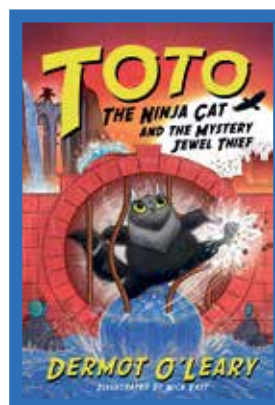
What were you like when you were our readers' age?

I went to a primary school where I knew everyone. I wasn't part of the most popular gang, but I had a lot of friends and liked everyone. Then I went to a Catholic secondary school where I didn't know anyone. I was so scared on my first day at school that I sat in the car and cried, and begged my mum not to make me go into school. Thankfully she ignored me and within a week I had two sets of friends, which was amazing. I was quite easily distracted, not particularly naughty, but I was really good at talking, and good at all the subjects that let me talk, good at reading and practical stuff. I wasn't too good at maths or science. I wasn't lazy, and I enjoyed school, I had a great time, but I just didn't leave with any particular qualifications. Then I went back to sixth form and that was when I found myself at that age where the part of your brain that makes you settle down and concentrate kicks in. I've always loved learning and I was able to really engage in GCSE and A Levels, and really enjoyed politics and history.

Is it true that you used to write stories and try to sell them to your neighbours?

Oh yeah, really bad detective fiction! I nicked my dad's paper from work and I'd write these really intricate two pages and then think 'Mmm I don't know where I'm going with this... OK, then this happens, and this happens and then he solves the crime. That'll be 5p please!'

Toto the Ninja Cat and the Mystery Jewel Thief is out now



Illustrations by Nick East



CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY FIRST NEWS



19. GAME ZONE

FirstNews ● Issue 744 ● 18 – 24 September 2020

SUPER MARIO 3D ALL-STARS

10

SWITCH

THREE of Mario's best moments are packed into this three-for-one, limited edition game. Featuring *Super Mario 64*, *Super Mario Sunshine* and *Super Mario Galaxy*, these classic titles are just as magnificent as they were all those years ago!

All three games have had their graphics improved, and from the menu you can listen to 175 songs from each of the three titles.

The first game, *Super Mario 64* came out way back in 1996, and is considered by gaming experts to be one of the most important games ever released.

Back then, 3D video games were still finding their feet, and many had clunky and awkward controls. When *Super Mario 64* came out, it fixed many problems that other 3D games had faced, and introduced lots of ideas that videogames still use today.

In 2020, *Super Mario 64* is still really good, and while it has some pretty difficult levels and the controls can at times feel a bit awkward, there are so many levels, which all feature so many ideas, that you'll forget that it's more than 20 years old!



Next up is *Super Mario Sunshine*. Mario is equipped with a water-spraying device called the Flash Liquidizer Ultra Dousing Device, or F.L.U.D.D., and he's tasked with cleaning up a goo-covered holiday destination. It can be a lot harder than *Super Mario 64* in places, and at times you might not know what to do, or where to go.

Even so, exploring the world with the help of F.L.U.D.D. is fantastic, and it's so packed with secrets, you'll always feel like you've got something to do.

Lastly, there's *Super Mario Galaxy*. Featuring a fully orchestrated soundtrack that's exciting and spacey, and a story that's intriguing and mysterious, this game is still Mari-vellous. If you want to make games one day, there's no better place to learn what makes a good one than this collection.



All images: Nintendo



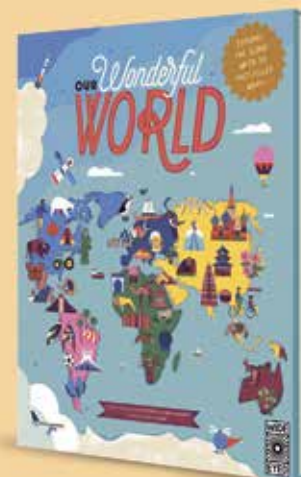
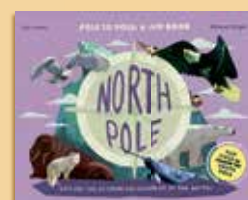
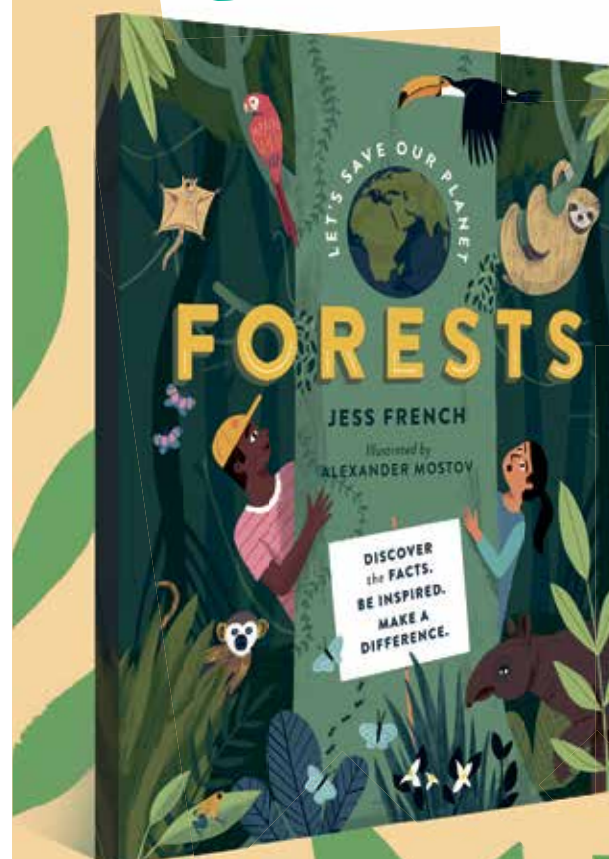
DID YOU KNOW?

When *Super Mario 64* was first released, lots of rumours about the game began circulating. One of them was that Luigi was a secret unlockable character. The rumour grew so much that one gaming website offered \$100 (£60 back then) to anyone who could find Luigi. No-one ever claimed the prize...



RE-WILD THE CHILD!

BOOKS THAT EXPLORE THE WORLD AROUND US



Featured Titles:
Let's Save Our Planet: Forests
Explore different forest types around the world, discover what makes each of them precious and unique, before taking a look at the causes, effects and solutions to deforestation.

Our Wonderful World
An exciting journey through a diverse array of countries, bursting with colour, facts and rich detail that will delight any budding explorer.

North Pole / South Pole
A fun and innovative flip book format that allows the reader to explore and compare the two Poles.

Atlas of Adventures: Travel Edition
With epic adventures from the four corners of the globe and discoveries to be made on your own doorstep, this book will inspire you to set off on your own journey of discovery – and be with you every step of the way.

OUT 6TH OCTOBER



20. CRAZY BUT TRUE

END OF THE SAGGY PANTS BAN

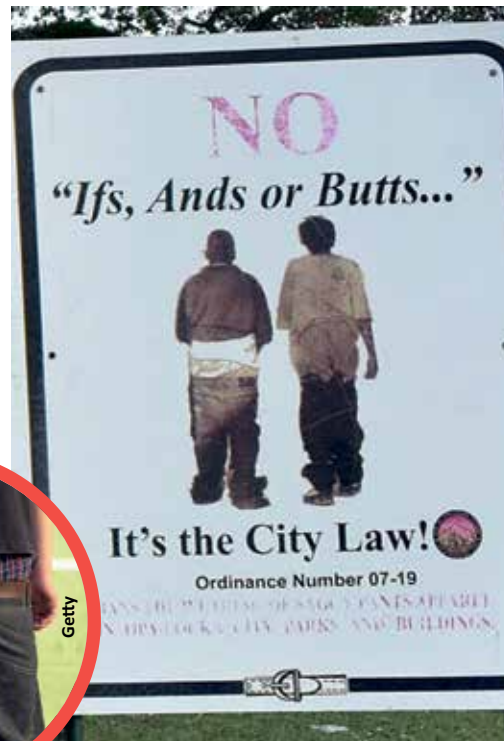
AFTER 13 years, wearing 'saggy pants' that hang around your underwear will no longer be banned in the US city of Opa-locka.

Sagging trousers became popular with skaters and hip-hop artists in the 1990s, but in the 2000s, several US lawmakers brought in bans against it.

The ban in Opa-locka, Florida, meant that those caught with their pants down could face a \$250 (£190) fine or ten hours of community service.

That's finally now set to change, as the city authorities have voted four to one to repeal the ban, which has been called a "ridiculous waste of public resources" by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The city's vice mayor Chris Davis said that he was "never in support of the law" as he felt it "disproportionately affected a certain segment of our population, which is young, African-American men".



CHAMPION SWUGGLER

THERE'S a new world champion swugger in town! What do you mean you've never heard of swuggling?

Swuggling is juggling while you're swimming. Bob Evans, a teacher from Oregon, USA, managed to juggle five balls 101 times while swimming. The previous record for five-ball swuggling was 25, so Bob has absolutely smashed it.

He also revealed that he has managed to swuggle four balls with 224 catches but sadly, Guinness World Records is yet to acknowledge four-ball swuggling as an official swuggle category.



SCREAM MASKS

CHESSINGTON World of Adventures is launching a service where you can get your own screaming mouth printed on a face mask – perfect for rollercoasters!

To get your 'coaster face' on a mask, just visit www.printster.co.uk/chessington-face-mask.html and upload your best scream.



IS THIS BANKSY?

WHAT a strange world it is we live in where rumours and outright lies can spread so easily on social media. One of the stranger conspiracy theories of recent times is that Banksy, the secretive graffiti artist, has been unmasked.

The rumour started with a tweet that Neil Buchanan, artist and host of kids' show Art Attack (ask your parents) might be Banksy.

The post quickly went viral and the TV presenter, known for his large-scale artworks, felt he had to set the record straight.

The statement on Buchanan's website says that "there is no truth in

the rumour whatsoever".

So there you go. Neil Buchanan is NOT Banksy. Although, if he were Banksy, that's exactly what he would have said. Hmm...



SUBMITTED BY ARMÁN, AGE 9

WHAT DO SKELETONS SAY WHEN SERVING FOOD? BONE APPETIT!



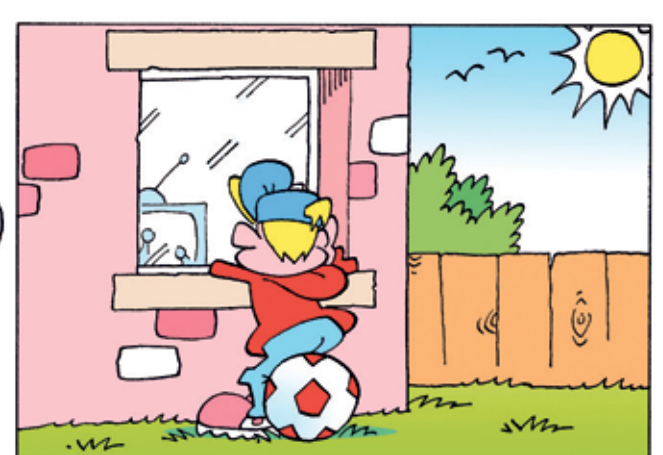
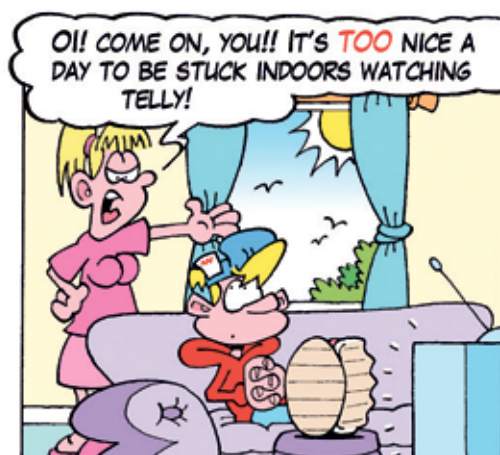
WHY CAN'T YOUR NOSE BE 12 INCHES LONG? BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD BE A FOOT!



SHARE YOUR JOKES WITH US AT NEWSDESK@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK



Written and illustrated by Paul Palmer



21. **SHOPS**

FirstNews • Issue 744 • 18 – 24 September 2020

WHAT'S IN THE SHOPS?**CARTOON REUSABLE FACE MASKS**
FIREBOX.COM £14.99

Made from double-layered polyester with an extra-soft finish and elastic ear loops for a secure and comfortable fit, these cartoon face masks add a little fun to mask wearing. Includes two replaceable filters, plus £1 from every mask sold is donated to

NHS Charities Together.

**DISNEY STORE PACK OF 4 STAR WARS CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**
DISNEY STORE £20.00

This Disney pack of four Star Wars face cloth coverings includes The Child, R2-D2, all-over Star Wars symbols and classic Star Wars characters. Available in sizes small to X-large. Disney will donate 100% of the proceeds from the sales of Disney cloth face coverings, up to £500,000, to the Red Cross organisations to support people in crisis.

**FACE MASKS****FACE MASK TOTSBOTS.COM £5.15 EACH**

These colourful prints add a little fun to mask wearing. The face masks are made from a soft and stretchy fabric with elasticated ear loops for a comfortable fit. You can also resize the loops if you need to – simply untie and adjust to fit. Wash after use and re-use again and again, saving a lot of waste. For every pack of masks sold 20% of revenue will be donated to charity.



*All prices correct at time of printing

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We are extremely passionate about the environment and we are always looking at ways to reduce waste throughout the company and across all of our products. Our paper comes from sustainable sources. The new material we use to wrap mailed copies is made from potato starch, so it is now fully home compostable and completely biodegradable, and you can put it in with your food waste, in your green garden waste recycling bins, or on your own compost heap.

WIN! A DINO BLASTER BUNDLE FROM ZURU

TAKE DOWN ferocious prehistoric predators with ZURU's all-new X-Shot Dino Attack range!

Face a dino invasion with an X-Shot Dino Striker and an X-Shot Dino Attack Claw Hunter – each with foam darts and dino eggs.

You'll be able to blast incoming dinos away with extreme accuracy!

What's more, you could win a one-metre tall inflatable T-Rex Target and improve your technique before the real things invade!

We have six Dino Blaster bundles up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

Which of these wasn't a herbivore?

- a) Brachiosaurus
- b) Velociraptor
- c) Apatosaurus

For more information visit www.x-shot.zuru.com

**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY DINO**

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 17. The closing date is 1 October 2020.

WIN! A STUDIO CREATOR KIT

WE'VE teamed up with Canal Toys to offer readers a chance to win the latest Studio Creator kit.

Creating, editing and sharing content has never been easier! The Studio Creator makes it easy and fun to create custom videos. It's perfect for hands-free recording tutorials, music videos, unboxings, reviews and more.

Everything you need to make your content look more professional is inside the box. Create backgrounds you want, set up the Green Screen to give you the perfect backdrop and then edit in the background you want. Use the adjustable tripod to hold your smartphone and turn on the LED ring light which tilts 180° to get the perfect angle.

Whether you are doing a make-up tutorial or an unboxing or simply want to talk to your fans, adjusting the lighting can set your video apart from the rest. The 24-page guide book is packed full of hints and tips to get you started.

We have six fantastic Canal Toys Studio Creators up for grabs. To be in with a chance of winning, just answer this question:

How many legs does a tripod have?
a) two b) three c) four

**ENTER NOW! MARK YOUR ENTRY VIDEO**

firstnews.co.uk/competitions or see page 17. The closing date is 1 October 2020.

WRITE A STORY WITH CRESSIDA COWELL

A FEW months ago, Cressida Cowell, author and Waterstones Children's Laureate, started a new story in *First News*. Then she handed things over to YOU to write what happened next. Every week the story has continued, written by our readers, 250 words at a time. Read every part of the gripping tale at:

FIRST.NEWS/CRESSIDACOWELL



SO FAR IN THE STORY...

Long ago, a war between spellcasters and evil creatures took place. For years, many of these evil creatures have been locked away... until shapeshifter Typhon helped his father, the Lord of the Beasts, to find the door to an ancient maze that could return these monsters to the world. The task of stopping these evil beings has fallen on young spellcaster Ferocity and her smoke-producing pet boggart, Guggalugs, who, after surviving a surprise attack from the shapeshifter, have tracked down the Lord of the Beasts with their spellcasting allies: the mysterious Trick, his sister Aida and his mum Ariella. Now they face Typhon, the Lord of the Beasts, and an army of subjects in a race to the centre of the magical maze – and Ferocity now must reckon with a difficult realisation, too.

PART 25: FELICITY CORNES AND LAURA JOBKE

'I'm sorry,' he whispered, his clawed grip growing tighter and tighter every second. 'I cannot be The Lord of The Beasts and your father. There is no other way. I'm sorry, Ferocity.' She gasped and choked as she struggled to speak. Eventually, her determination forced her to croak, her voice barely audible:

'Why would you choose your duty over f-family?' she spluttered. Trick looked stricken as he backed away to the edge of the action. With a yowl of The Lord's voice, more and more beasts entered, stalking them and leaving the friends with barely any hope.

Fear started to flood Aida as she realised this could be the last time they would see another day. But besides her desperation, there was also anger burning and building in her mind. But this was no ordinary anger. Her heart was pulsing and she could feel the red hot fury burning in her veins. She suddenly broke free of the beast's hold. Merlin's staff! If she could get it, then she would banish the beasts forever.

Ferocity suddenly made a gurgling and hissing noise and Aida knew there was nothing for it. She leapt and landed perfectly by the Lord's side like an eagle pouncing on prey. She drew out her wand from her torn, ragged pocket. A burst of lightning shot out of it, hitting The Lord of The Beasts and freeing Ferocity, who collapsed in a motionless heap on the ground. Ariella was stunned and happy tears burst from her eyes as the beasts retreated, scared and now fearful as their master had been defeated. She dashed over to Trick and Aida and hugged them, grateful that they had succeeded.

Ferocity stirred. Her eyes slowly opened to see Trick, Ariella and Aida staring down at her. She staggered slowly to her feet, groggily. She looked around. The Lord of The Beasts lay quietly on the muddy ground. He was gone. She didn't know whether to be happy or sad as she stared down at his body. But something wasn't right. She could feel it. Ferocity turned slowly around. She screamed as dark shadows rose nearby...

Cressida said:

"I love that Felicity and Laura are working together! I used to write stories with friends at school and it's a lovely way to have fun writing together."

PART 26: BY YOU!

IF you took the time to have a go at continuing the story, thank you!



You can submit the next part of the story by email at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk, popping **Story** into the subject line, or at first.news/cressidacowell.

We'll be deciding on the next part of the story every Monday, so make sure you send us your story by then!

National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library



DISCOVER your superpower with Greg James and Chris Smith!

The first librarians of the week in the National Literacy Trust's Virtual School Library are *Kid Normal* co-authors, Greg James and Chris Smith! Their reading advice is: "Always return your books on time!"

The best librarians advise you on what to read next.

Greg and Chris's recommendations are:

- *Finn Family Moomintroll* by Tove Jansson
- *Matilda* by Roald Dahl
- *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers

Kid Normal tells the story of an ordinary boy accidentally thrust into a chaotic world of secret superheroes. Visit virtualschoollibrary.org.uk to listen to *Kid Normal* for free, watch videos, download activities and take a quiz!

Words for Life

Virtual School Library



FOR MORE TIPS AND ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE YOUR READING, WRITING, SPEAKING AND LISTENING AT HOME, VISIT WORDSFORLIFE.ORG.UK

YOUR READS!



MATILDA ROALD DAHL 
reviewed by Lilly Dempsey, aged seven

This book is about a young girl who turns to books when her family don't pay her any attention. She learns extraordinary things from her books and has a good relationship with them.

She makes friends with her lovely teacher called Miss Honey and, using her powers to move objects with her eyes, Matilda helps Miss Honey to defeat the evil headmistress, Miss

Trunchbull, who bullies the children in the school.

It's a heartwarming story and I think Roald Dahl is very clever! Five stars.

A SPRINKLE OF SORCERY 
MICHELLE HARRISON

reviewed by James Batten, aged nine

A Sprinkle of Sorcery is a fictional book about three sisters that become friends with another girl who has magical powers.

When one of the girls goes missing, the remaining girls band together and go on an adventure to find her. Their journey takes them to places only ever heard about in story tales and myths.

Their adventures include shipwrecks, pirates, witches and secret islands.

I absolutely loved the book and would recommend to readers who like Harry Potter or other magical mysteries.



CUB BADGE GOAL

by Ben

Lockdown meant I could get all my Cub badges!

My usual week before lockdown was filled with school, homework, swimming, Cubs, football, rugby, gardening club, etc. But lockdown meant the only activity to carry on was Cubs. During one of our Zoom meetings, my Cub leader, Baloo, told us that it would be a good time to try and get some of the badges we hadn't completed.

That gave me a fantastic idea – of trying to get all 60 badges! Me and my mum looked online at what we had to do to get the badges; there were things like gardening, helping around the house, pioneering (making rope and learning knots), digital maker (computer programming) which were quite easy to do.

But there were others like horse riding and rafting that we knew would be more challenging! The day we learnt the horse stables were re-opening we booked lessons so we could tick this one off our list.

It really helped me have focus and challenge during lockdown. I want to say a big thank you to my leaders Baloo, Akela, Hathi and Bagheera for continuing with Cubs and coming up with good ideas for activities we could do.



Cub badges



Ben working to gain his badges



**WE WANT TO
HEAR WHAT
YOU/YOUR
SCHOOL IS UP TO**

Write in to let us know what you've been up to lately! Have you been getting creative? Been for a great day out? How has it made you feel now that lockdown is changing again? Why not share your experiences with First News readers?

Email your report (including pictures) to yournews@firstnews.co.uk

Don't forget to include your name and age (and your school's name and address for school news reports). By writing in, you give consent to First News printing details and photographs of those involved in the report.

NHS MURAL

by Wapping Youth Football Club

AT the beginning of September a group of young people from Wapping Youth Football Club painted a new street mural with Paint the Change, celebrating the NHS.

Earlier this month Paint the Change hosted a series of art workshops with Wapping YFC to help us develop our creative skills and express our views on social justice through street art.

Paint the Change founder Maziar Bahari said: "Our workshops help young people connect with the things they care about in their area. With guidance from professional artists they express this among their peers and learn to translate their own ideas into visual art."

Our local MP Apsana Begum came along to the launch and said: "It's a brilliant mural which represents and captures the diversity of Wapping and the diversity of



Mural celebrating the NHS

the nationalities of the people serving the NHS." What a beautiful way to capture this moment in these difficult times. We can come back to this in years to come, to reflect on this moment and how we move forward together as a community.

We are very proud of our mural and our community.

HOLIDAY IN A MASK

by Joseph Robinson

THIS year we went on holiday to a Spanish island, although this holiday was quite different...

Not only did we have to wear a mask everywhere, but the place was very quiet! Normally at this time of year, Fuerteventura would be packed, buzzing with tourists strolling along the sunny sea front, but not this year. We had delightful and peaceful meals at authentic Spanish restaurants before splashing in the pool back at our villa, then warming up in our hot tub while gazing at the stars.

The best bit was that my older brother Drew came with me and my parents this time to join in the fun!

It was truly a holiday and experience I will never forget.



Family holiday (that's Joseph in the background)!

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CALL: (020) 3195 7256 EMAIL: [SCHOOLS@FIRSTNEWS.CO.UK](mailto:schools@firstnews.co.uk)

SPORT IN NUMBERS

84

is the combined age of Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Tom Brady, 43, and New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees, 41. The pair played in the first NFL game to feature two quarterbacks over the age of 40. Brady may have won six Super Bowls, but Brees (below) was happier, as the Saints won their opening game 34-23.



9

goals were scored by Chelsea against Bristol City, as they recorded their first win in the 2020-21 Women's

Super League. Incredibly, the goals were netted by nine different players, including winger Niamh Charles (below), who scored three minutes after coming on for her debut game.



5

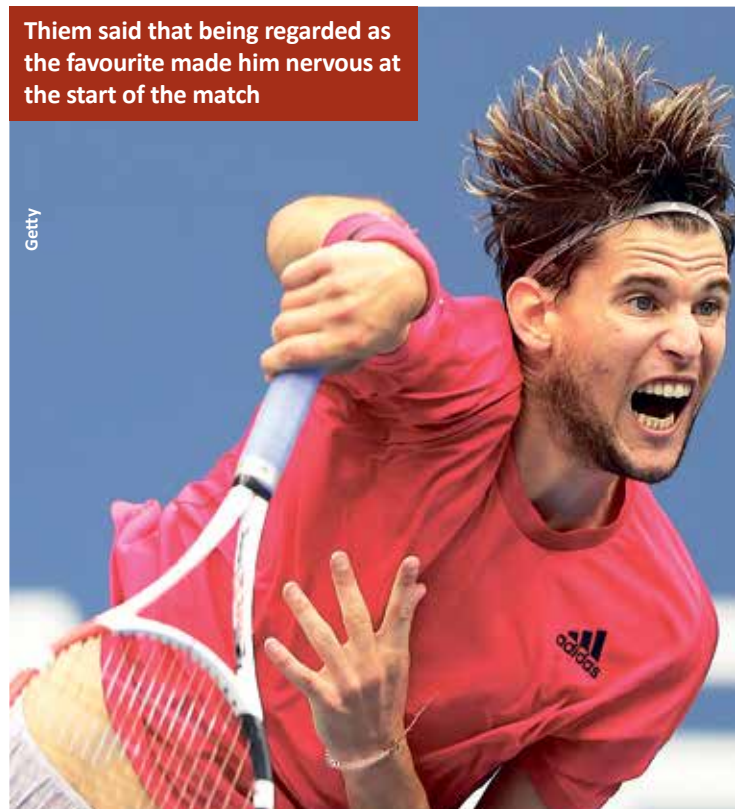
wins in a row is the impressive tally for Scotland's Laura Muir, after she finished first in the women's

1,500m in Berlin. Her time of three minutes and 57.4 seconds was her third performance under four minutes in less than a month. During that time she also won two 800m races.



Thiem said that being regarded as the favourite made him nervous at the start of the match

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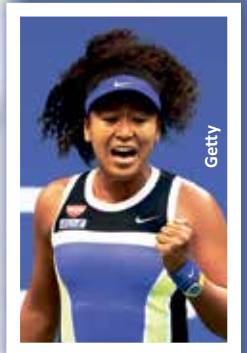


THE US Open finished eventfully, with both singles finals needing the full number of sets to find a winner!

Following the cancellation of Wimbledon and postponement of the French Open because of COVID-19, the US Open was widely anticipated by tennis fans – and it didn't disappoint. Austria's Dominic Thiem (pronounced 'team') was hoping it would be fourth time lucky, having finished as runner-up in his three previous Grand Slam finals. His opponent, Germany's Alexander Zverev, obviously had other ideas, convincingly winning the first two sets. Thiem rallied to take the following two and, in an exhilarating final set, which saw both men serve for the match, the Austrian triumphed.

Naomi Osaka (above, right) also had a fightback in the women's

THIEM TALK!



final, after losing the first set against Belarusian Victoria Azarenka. The Japanese star's performance rapidly improved after that and she won ten out of 12 games before clinching her third Grand Slam title. Osaka was also praised at the tournament for wearing seven face masks featuring the names of black Americans who had been violently killed.

There was success for Britain in the wheelchair doubles. Brits Gordon Reid and Alfie Hewett won their fourth US Open men's title in a row. In the women's competition, best friends Jordanne Whitley and her Japanese partner Yui Kamiji (above, left) collected an incredible 11th Grand Slam title together.

OPEN AGAIN



ONE of Stewart Cink's greatest achievements was winning the 2009 Open Championship, beating Tom Watson in a four-hole playoff.

That remarkable tournament was the golfer's sixth PGA Tour win – and looked like it might be his last. That was until the American finished this month's Safeway Open in Arizona, USA, two strokes ahead of his nearest rival, Harry Higgs. Cink kept his nerve at the end, holing three birdies (a score of one under par) on the final four holes.

Since his previous success 11 years ago, Cink's form has dipped. The 47-year-old also took time away from the sport, after his wife, Lisa, was diagnosed with cancer. Thankfully, her condition is now better and she supported him on the course as he completed his final round. It was truly a family affair, as their son Reagan caddied for his father.

"I'm still working like crazy to try to be the best golfer I can be," Cink explained afterwards. "But there was probably a time I felt like maybe age might have caught up with me!"

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Cink's success came 4,074 days after his previous Open win