

Wonka, the latest film based on the Roald Dahl book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, goes on general release today.

It follows the classic 1971 film *Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* starring Gene Wilder and the 2005 version featuring Johnny Depp, which reverted to the book's original title.

The new film has the French-American actor Timothée Chalamet in the title role and features Hugh Grant as an Oompa-Loompa.

It differs from previous adaptations by telling the story of the early years of the eccentric chocolate maker.

It has been given the thumbs up by most film critics with one saying he enjoyed it more than the previous two films.



Pictures: Warner Bros

You'll never guess who I bumped into down at the shops

» Shoppers shocked by royal Big Issue seller

Shoppers at a Tesco store in London were amazed when they spotted the future king selling the Big Issue magazine on the street.

It was the latest effort by the Prince of Wales in his campaign to highlight the problems of homelessness.

The Big Issue magazine exists to help people who are homeless or are at risk of being homeless.

They buy the magazine and then sell it at a profit on the streets to earn a legitimate income. Organisers are quick to point out the vendors are working, not begging.

The Prince of Wales joined regular vendor Dave Martin to sell the magazine at a Tesco store in Hammersmith, west London.

Mr Martin, who is also an artist, and William exchanged Christmas cards as they sold the magazine, while the prince was happy to pose for selfies with surprised shoppers.

It is the second royal endorsement for the Big Issue in recent weeks after William's father, King Charles, posed for a cover photograph to mark his 75th birthday and launched a campaign to help food banks.



Girls getting on board to skate

There has been a big rise in the number of girls taking up skateboarding according to new figures released this week.

The research shows that 64 per cent of girls aged between 10 and 16 have had a go at skateboarding in the past three years.

That is a 20 per cent rise on previous figures.

Half of all those polled in the survey said they were inspired to take up skateboarding by the exploits of Sky Brown.

She became Britain's youngest ever Olympic medallist at the 2021 Tokyo Games, just after her 13th birthday.



Sky Brown's new Olympic Games target: see sport, page 6



£2,000 for first sticker album

A copy of the first ever football sticker album has been sold at auction for £2,000.

The album was produced by Panini for the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, famously won by the great Brazil team featuring Pele.

The completed album was given to Northamptonshire schoolboy Andrew Knott as a 12th birthday present.

Now 65, Mr Knott decided to sell it when clearing out old memorabilia. Although complete when he received it, two stickers have since been lost.

Gildings Auctioneers had expected the album to sell for between £1,200 and £1,800.

Kiss last forever

Veteran rock band Kiss played their final concert at Madison Square Garden in New York this week – but fans will still be able to enjoy them.

Famous for their crazy stage costumes and striking black and white face paint, the band will continue to be represented on stage by computer-generated avatars, a technique pioneered by Swedish pop group Abba.



The NEWS Shed

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

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

■ For contact details please see the website.

Our beloved garden ornament is a bomb!

Elderly couple Jeffrey and Sian Edwards had looked after their unusual garden ornament, which they thought was the casing of an old naval missile, for more than 40 years.

It was sunk into concrete in their front garden and painted to match the window sills of their home.

Mrs Edwards said she even she used to bang her trowel against it to knock soil off when she was gardening.

But then a passing police officer spotted it and said he would have to alert the Army. He returned soon after to say a bomb disposal unit would be arriving the following day.

Experts found the object really was a complete bomb and said the street would have to be evacuated but Mr and Mrs Edwards refused to leave their home.

Mr Edwards, 77, told the BBC: "I told the bomb disposal unit 'we're not leaving the house, we're staying here. If it goes up, we're going to go up with it'."

The bomb disposal unit carefully removed the beloved ornament and



took it to a nearby quarry where they covered it with five tonnes of sand and blew it up.

Mr Edwards added: "It was an old friend. I'm so sorry that the poor old thing was blown to pieces."

Elsewhere, a fisherman working off the coast of Denmark had a shock when a 130kg wartime bomb got caught in his nets.

Navy experts put it back into the water with an explosive charge attached and blew it up, sending a huge spout of water into the air.

Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey have managed to get up close to the massive iceberg floating towards the South Atlantic.

As reported in The News Shed last week, the huge iceberg – twice the size of Greater London – broke away from the Antarctic ice shelf 40 years ago but then became stuck against the sea bed. Now it has broken free and is floating northwards.

Scientists aboard the UK's research vessel RRS Sir David Attenborough, which is on its first scientific voyage, were able to take photographs and capture drone video of the iceberg.

They have also taken samples from the sea to test the effects of the iceberg.

As it slowly melts it will release nutrients collected when it was still part of a glacier on the Antarctic and these are expected to be beneficial to wildlife.



Fact SHED

What's in a name?

When the RRS Sir David Attenborough was built five years ago, officials asked the public to vote for a name for it.

But they soon changed their minds when the overwhelming public choice was 'Boaty McBoatface'.

Instead, they decided to name it after the popular television naturalist, even though his name was only voted fourth.

The RRS prefix stands for Royal Research Ship.



Conservationists on opposite sides of the world have been celebrating the birth of two critically endangered rhinos.

At Chester Zoo in England, keepers were on hand to see the arrival of a female eastern black rhino (above, left). Meanwhile, in Indonesia, a wildlife sanctuary has had a second Sumatran rhino (above, right) born in the space of three months.

Both species are on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's critically endangered list.

There are thought to be fewer than 600 eastern black rhinos left in the wild across their native Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. The Sumatran rhino is at even greater risk of extinction with fewer than 80 left in the wild on the Indonesian islands of Sumatra and Borneo.

Indonesia's environment minister



RHINO

Siti Nurbaya Bakar said: "This is the second birth of the Sumatran rhino in 2023. This further strengthens the government's commitment to rhino conservation in Indonesia."

At Chester, staff were able to film new mum Zuri giving birth in a rare daylight arrival – eastern black rhinos are almost always born in the dark.

Rhino team manager Emma Evison said: "To witness the calf safely entering the world, in front of our very eyes, was just the most incredible privilege."

"What's most important during these first few days is that mum Zuri and her new baby spend some time bonding and getting to know one another."

"So far, the pair have been inseparable and the little one is feeding regularly and already gaining in size and weight."

DOG

Britain's longest-serving fire investigation dog has been given a prestigious award to mark his retirement after an 11-year career alongside firefighters.

The 12-year-old black labrador, known as Reqs, attended more than 500 fires throughout his career with Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and helped at many high-profile investigations.

He has been awarded the PDOSA Order of Merit by animal charity the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals.

Reqs has been able to use his amazing sense of smell to help investigators find out what has caused fires.



REINDEER

A main road in Suffolk was closed for several hours when a pair of reindeer wandered onto a dual carriageway.



The runaway ruminants were eventually caught by police on the A11 road and returned to a nearby Santa's grotto attraction from which they had escaped.

PETS

With temperatures plunging across Britain in recent days, animal charity the RSPCA has advice on keeping pets safe in the cold

DOGS

If you have an elderly or sickly dog, buy a special coat or jumper to keep them warm. Stay safe when walking your dog in the dark. Wear reflective clothing and think about a reflective collar or light for your dog's collar.

Keep dogs away from ponds and lakes that are iced over – thin ice may break under a dog's weight. If it is snowing, watch out for paws becoming compacted with snow, which is uncomfortable.

Anti-freeze and rock salt can be poisonous to pets. Wash their paws thoroughly after walking your dog in areas that may have been gritted.

CATS

Check your cat's bedding is away from draughts and stays warm and dry. In cold weather, it's important your cat has access to a warm environment such as your home or another heated indoor area.

As with dogs, be aware anti-freeze and rock salt can be poisonous.

Adults should check under their car for sleeping cats. Cats may take shelter under a car or crawl under the bonnet or wheel arches to soak up warmth from the engine or tyres. Before setting off in the car, adults should tap the bonnet and check around the wheels.

SMALLER PETS

If pets such as rabbits and guinea pigs are kept outdoors, they will need extra bedding in the winter months.

Keep their home protected by using blankets or covers but make sure they are still well-ventilated.

As the temperature drops, you could move their enclosure into a shed or unused garage – but they will still need plenty of room to exercise in a safe and secure environment.

Protect pet birds kept outside from cold weather by giving them plenty of extra dry, warm bedding such as straw and cover their enclosures to keep the wind and rain out.

COUNTRY IN THE NEWS

ITALY

The other wonky tower in danger

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is one of Italy's most famous sights, photographed by tourists from around the world.

But another Italian city has a wonky tower – and it is danger of falling down.

The 154ft (47 metres) Garisenda Tower in the city of Bologna – home of spaghetti bolognese – leans at an angle of four degrees, the same tilt as its famous cousin in Pisa.

But measurements have shown the angle is increasing and the local council calls the problem “highly critical”. Barriers are being put up around the tower in case of collapse and the area is expected to be closed for several years while repair work is carried out.

The Garisenda Tower's taller neighbour, the Asinelli Tower, also leans, but not by as much, and remains open.

When Pisa tower leaned too far: history, page 5



Fact SHED



Italy factfile

■ For hundreds of years, Italy was made up of dozens of smaller independent areas and city states before it was unified in 1861.

■ As well as its famous boot-shaped mainland, the two biggest Mediterranean islands, Sicily and Sardinia, are part of Italy.

■ Italy surrounds two tiny independent states, known as enclaves: Vatican City, within Rome, and San Marino.



WORD IN THE NEWS

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

PANDA

The only two *giant pandas* on show at a British zoo, Yang Guang and Tian Tian, have returned home to China after spending 12 years on loan at Edinburgh Zoo.

Definition

The *giant panda* is a large species of bear native only to parts of China, and described as ‘vulnerable’ by conservationists. More than 99 per cent of its diet is made up of bamboo shoots. Despite its name, it is not closely related to the red panda.

Derivation

The word *panda* is thought to come from the word *ponya*, meaning ‘bamboo eater’ in the Nepali language.

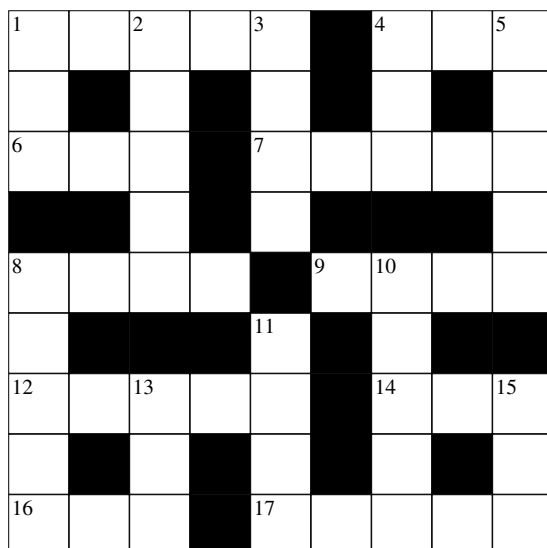


NUMBER IN THE NEWS

18

The number of popular swimming sites in England, mostly beaches, which have been rated as unfit for swimming by the Environment Agency because of pollution which causes health risks.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1&4 Global football competition, last played in Qatar (5,3)
- 6 Space between two things (3)
- 7 Device for removing rain from a car windscreen (5)
- 8 A lord's wife (4)
- 9 Long-legged wading bird (4)
- 12 Former name of Myanmar (5)
- 14 Consume food (3)
- 16 Perform on stage (3)
- 17 World's most populous country (5)

DOWN

- 1 Fake hair (3)
- 2 Speedy (5)
- 3 One of these clues (4)
- 4 Peaked headgear (3)
- 5 Capital of France (5)
- 8 North African country, capital Tripoli (5)
- 10 Baguette or loaf (5)
- 11 Car for hire (4)
- 13 Unpopular rodent (3)
- 15 Popular hot drink (anagram of 14 across) (3)

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

ON THIS DAY » ON THIS DAY » ON THIS DAY » ON THIS DAY**December 9,
1960**

The first episode of Coronation Street was broadcast, making it the world's longest-running television soap opera. In the 63 years since it was first shown, there have been more than 10,200 episodes broadcast from the fictional area of Salford called Weatherfield.

**December 10,
1768**

The first edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica was published. By the time of its final printed edition in 2010, the reference work ran to 32 volumes and contained 32,640 pages. The encyclopaedia is now only published online.

**December 11,
1936**

King Edward VIII abdicated – or gave up the throne – in order to marry Wallis Simpson, an American woman who had been married and divorced. Remarriage after divorce was opposed by the Church of England and the monarch is the figurehead of the church.

**December 12,
1800**

Washington DC became capital of the United States. It was named after George Washington, the first president. DC stands for District of Columbia, which is run by the US Congress. It means the capital is not part of any of the states in the US.

**December 13,
1972**

Apollo 17 astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt made their third moonwalk. They were the sixth pair to do so and, to date, it was the last time man set foot on the Moon. The Artemis programme aims to put astronauts on the Moon once more in the next two years.

DECEMBER 14, 1911

In the summer of 1910, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen sent a telegram to his British counterpart Captain Robert Scott.

It read: "Beg to inform you Fram proceeding Antarctic – Amundsen."

Fram was the ship on which Amundsen was heading south and the telegram began a race to become the first person to reach the South Pole. It would become a deadly race.

Amundsen and his team reached Antarctica in January 1911 to begin a carefully planned expedition in which they built a series of camps holding food and other supplies and which reached further and further south.

A first attempt to reach the Pole was abandoned because of the extreme cold but, in October 1911, Amundsen and a team of five men set out from base camp again, taking a team of 52 dogs pulling five sleds full of supplies.

After a two-month trek, they reached the South Pole on December 14, 1911.

They left a small tent at the Pole, flying a Norwegian flag and containing a letter with details of their achievement.

Captain Scott's own expedition turned out to be less efficient, using a

A race to the end of the Earth

combination of sleds, dogs, horses and motorised vehicles.

They reached the Pole on January 17, 1912, where Scott was dismayed to find Amundsen's letter. He wrote in his diary: "The worst has happened. All the daydreams must go. Great God! This is an awful place."

Amundsen's team made it back safely and sailed to Australia from where they announced their success.

Scott and his team were not so lucky and all died as they were trapped by fierce storms and ran out of supplies.

In 1926, Amundsen became the first man to have reached both Poles.

His attempts to reach the North Pole by ship and on foot had failed, but he eventually reached the North Pole when a team of 15 explorers travelled there in an inflatable airship.

DECEMBER 15, 2001

The Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy was reopened on this date after an 11-year programme costing £20million to stabilise the structure.

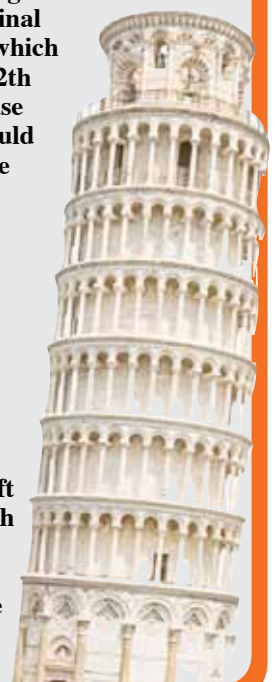
The tower's famous four degree lean from the vertical, caused by unstable foundations, had increased to more than five degrees and there were fears it could topple over if it leant any further, but the work returned the tower to four degrees.

The building is a free-standing bell tower for the nearby Pisa Cathedral. It is 185ft 11in (56.67m) high on its higher side and 183ft 3in (55.86m) on its lower side.

It actually began to lean during its original construction, which began in the 12th century, because soft ground could not support the weight of its stonework.

Despite its famous lean, the tower has survived four strong earthquakes.

Engineers believe this is because the soft ground beneath it absorbs shocks before they can shake the tower too much.



WOMEN'S SPORT SPECIAL PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

Laura rides again



Track cycling legend Laura Kenny is aiming to compete at a fourth Olympic Games in Paris next year following the recent birth of her second son.

She and husband Jason are the most successful married couple in the history of the summer Olympics, each holding multiple records (see panel).

Speaking in the latest documentary on the YouTube channel of Team GB and sponsors Toyota, she revealed she is determined to combine motherhood with her glittering sports career.

She said: "I obviously want to compete at the next Olympics.

"I know everyone thinks I'm absolutely mad in saying that, but if I don't try, I'll never know.

"I would hate to be sat here thinking, 'Well, I never even gave it a go to see if I could make it'.

"I hope both children see their mum as someone who was determined to make both things work. They will never have the burden of thinking, 'Oh, Mum had me and then ended her career'. Because I didn't. I carried on – I made it work. I hope they look back

Bike SHED

■ Dame Laura Kenny

Formerly Laura Trott and now aged 31, Laura has won five track cycling gold medals and one silver across the last three Olympic Games.

It makes her the most successful female Olympic cyclist of all time as well as the most successful female British athlete in any Olympic sport.

She has also won seven world championships, 14 European championships and two Commonwealth Games gold medals.

■ Sir Jason Kenny

Laura's husband, Jason holds similar records to his wife. With seven golds and two silvers, he is the most successful cyclist in Olympic history and the most successful British Olympian in any sport.



and they can see that, and see that from the day they were born they were part of the journey."

Eldest son Albie was already three before his Mum's third Olympics in Tokyo in 2021 and now he has been joined by little brother Monty.

Laura said: "The two different comebacks between Albie and Monty

have been so different. With Albie I came back feeling like I had a point to prove, that you could be a mum and be an Olympic champion all at the same time.

"I think this time, I've come back for me. I've come back because I love riding my bike and I cannot imagine it not being part of my life."

Not content with being Britain's youngest ever Olympic medallist, Sky Brown is now hoping to compete in two different sports in next year's Paris Olympics.

At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, Brown won a skateboarding bronze medal just 28 days after her 13th birthday.

Now 15, she aims to compete in next year's surfing event as well as going in the skateboarding again.

She told Eurosport: "It would be really cool because I love them so much, and I want to show the world you don't just have to do one sport.

"Skating and surfing – it's my playground."

If she qualifies to compete in both



sports, Brown will face some tricky obstacles. While the skateboarding takes place in host city Paris, the surfing is being staged 9,000 miles away in Tahiti, part of the French Polynesia group of islands in the South Pacific.

The skateboarding events start a week after the surfing has finished.

There are plenty of examples of sportsmen and women winning Olympic medals in different sports but they are usually at separate Olympics and in connected sports, such as swimming and water polo, volleyball and beach volleyball or different types of skiing competitions.

There are very few who have succeeded at unconnected sports at the same Olympics but among them are American sportsman Joseph Lydon who won medals in football and boxing in 1904 and three Frenchmen who, four years earlier, earned gold and silver medals in rugby and tug-of-war respectively.