



GIRLS ON THE BALL!

» Big rise in footy teams for girls and women

The number of football teams for girls and women has more than doubled across England in the past seven years.

There are now 12,150 girls' or women's teams registered with the Football Association (FA), compared with 5,632 in the 2016-17 season.

The figures, gathered for a BBC report and detailed on the FA website, include teams in the Channel Islands – where the biggest percentage rise was recorded.

The number of female teams on the island of Jersey has shot up from only seven to 53, while the county associations in Surrey and Sussex have seen the number of teams there trebled to 552 and 489 respectively.

Much of the rise has been put down to girls and women taking inspiration from the successes of the England women's team in recent seasons.

The Lionesses won the 2022 European Championship, beating Germany in the final at Wembley, and then reached the World Cup final last year.

The biggest increases in the number of girls' and women's teams came during the 2022-23 season when almost 1,500 new teams were formed in the immediate aftermath of England's Euro success.

The FA's director of women's football, Sue Campbell, said: "The power football has to change lives has been opened up to a brand new generation of women and girls over this historic period.

"Much of the growth we have seen over the last seven years has been spearheaded by our trailblazing Lionesses whose success in the home Euros gave us an unprecedented chance to change the future of the game forever.

"The legacy of their victory has turned inspiration into participation with more women and girls stepping forward to play, while leaving the game in a better place for the generations to come.

"As we look ahead to the next seven years and beyond, the priority is to make the game accessible to all women and girls, no matter what their background or circumstances."

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The **NEWS** Shed

We're taking a break
for half-term – next
issue out on March 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

OVERDUE BOOK

A book has been returned to a school library. Big deal? But this book was last on the school's shelves 120 years ago!

The Book of Animal Life, written by Father Tuck, was given to a pupil at Brookfields Primary School in Birmingham in 1904 as a reward for good behaviour.

Now the book has been returned to the school after being found in a jumble sale more than 150 miles away in Dorset.

Head teacher Leanne Mahony said she was pleased to see "encouraging a love of reading was as important then as it is now".

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Armed police units rushed to a hotel in Leicestershire when they received reports of a man waving a large knife around.

But when they confronted the 'dangerous individual' they found it was a Harry Potter fan in fancy dress waving his wand about.

Police later posted on social media that no harm was done... and that there was no sign of Voldemort!

OIL SPILL

A clean-up operation is being carried out on the Caribbean island of Tobago after a ship ran aground and overturned, causing an oil slick to ruin miles of beautiful beaches.

Volunteers were helping clean around nine miles (14km) of beaches while coastguards created barriers out to sea to stop more oil damaging other areas of the island's coastline.

The NEWS Shed

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

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

■ For contact details please see the website.



■ A fierce turtle which can bite a person's finger off has been found in a lake in Cumbria, thousands of miles from its natural home.

The alligator snapping turtle is native to the south of the United States and it is not known how one found its way to the north of England. Vets believe it may have been smuggled here as a pet which then outgrew its home or could not be fed properly.

The turtles, which can weigh up to 80kg, as much as a grown man, have distinctive 'armoured' shells, spikes

over its head and, most dangerously, a fierce bite which gives the creature its name.

The turtle found in Cumbria, which has been given the unlikely name of Fluffy, was found by a local councillor who put on three pairs of builder's gloves to protect herself and fished it out of the lake with a shopping basket.

Covered in mud, it is thought to have been hibernating because the weather was much colder than its natural home. After being checked by a vet it has been taken to a reptile rescue centre.

CHOC SHOCK!

» Cocoa price shoots up; popular bars scrapped

Chocolate lovers are likely to face rising prices for their favourite treats.

Supplies of cocoa beans, one of the main ingredients of chocolate, have slumped because of poor harvests caused by unhelpful weather.

That is particularly the case in West Africa, where much of the world's cocoa is grown. Unusually dry weather has meant crops have been reduced.

It means chocolate makers must pay more for what cocoa beans they can get hold of, and they will have to pass on those higher prices to customers.

The price of cocoa being paid by the

chocolate makers has doubled compared with a year ago and reached an all-time high of £4,655 a tonne earlier this week.

Mondelez, the company which makes Cadbury products, said the rising price of sugar was another factor.

The news comes as some of our most popular chocolate bars are being scrapped.

Nestlé has said it will no longer make Breakaway or Yorkie Biscuit bars although traditional Yorkies will continue. The company says it is to make room for new products. The same company scrapped Caramac bars last year.



Picture: Lego.com



A Lego fan's dream has come true after his competition entry has been chosen for a new model.

John Cramp has been submitting different plans to the Lego Ideas scheme for six years and now his design for a traditional British red telephone box has been chosen and is being made and sold by the giant toy company.

John said: "It fills me with pride. I'm so happy with how the finished models turned out.

"It's as close as possible to it being a scale model of the real thing. On the roof, there's a button that you can press which activates a little light inside."

John's design could become a

LEGO 1

reminder of the past as the widespread use of mobile phones means there are fewer and fewer public telephone boxes on the streets of our towns and villages – and even fewer of the distinctive old red versions, which were introduced 100 years ago this year.

In a separate Lego achievement, a Cambridgeshire couple built a life-size red telephone box in their living room, made from half a million bricks.

It took Mike Addis and Catherine Weightman two months to build, working four-hour shifts every day for two months.

LEGO 2

The world's tallest Lego minifigure is to be unveiled at an English theme park.

The 30ft-high (9m) character, weighing in at six tonnes, will see the familiar minifigure becoming a 'maxifigure' at the Lego Windsor Resort in Berkshire.

Known as Roxie, the figure will overlook a £10million new rollercoaster ride at the theme park which will be open in time for the Easter holidays.

The Minifigure Speedway is a duelling rollercoaster in which cars race each forwards and backwards on two tracks at speeds of up to 30mph.



Next time in The News Shed: don't miss our special picture report from the huge Bricktastic exhibition of Lego creations in Manchester – next edition out on March 1

MUSIC

Pop superstar Kylie Minogue is to receive a major accolade at a British music industry awards night next month.

The Australian actress and singer will receive the 'global icon' award at the Brits, the annual ceremony to recognise the best in British and world music. Kylie's honour is the equivalent of a lifetime

achievement award. Now 55, she shot to fame as a teenager acting in the Australian television soap opera Neighbours before going on to have a hugely successful music career.



TELEVISION

The BBC has celebrated the 50th anniversary of one of its best-loved children's television characters.

Bagpuss was first shown in February 1974 and went on to be voted the all-time favourite children's

programme – despite only 13 episode's ever being made.

Bagpuss was a cuddly toy who came to life when left alone, along with woodpecker Professor Yaffle and Gabriel the toad. The stop-motion show was filmed entirely in a barn at the programme maker's home.

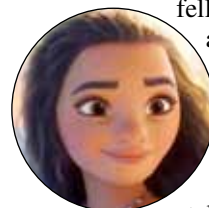


FILM

Disney has announced that a sequel to the hit 2016 film Moana will be released later this year.

The original film saw the Polynesian island girl go on a mission at sea to save her fellow islanders, accompanied by demigod Maui, voiced by Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson. A follow-up television series had

originally been planned but instead the film sequel will go up against the new Wicked film from Universal when both movies hit our cinema screens in November.



Picture: Disney

COUNTRY IN THE NEWS

ICELAND

The island of fire and ice

Iceland could face decades or even centuries of volcanic activity according to scientists.

The Reykjanes peninsula, near the capital Reykjavik in the south-east of the country, has seen three eruptions in the last two months and six since 2021.

There are more than 100 volcanoes across the island nation but, unlike a typical eruption from the top of a volcano, the most recent eruptions have been along underground streams of magma several miles long.



The red-hot molten rock is called magma when it is underground and lava when it erupts to the surface.

The town of Grindavik has already been evacuated and the most recent eruption caused damage to a pipeline carrying hot water to thousands of homes.

Scientists say historic evidence show eruptions happen in bursts which can last centuries, separated by quiet periods also lasting hundreds of years.

Fact SHED



Iceland factfile

Iceland sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans in the north-west of Europe.

Iceland is above the join of two tectonic plates, huge areas of the Earth's crust which slowly pull apart, creating gaps through which magma can escape.

With only 380,000 residents – about the same as the English county of Dorset – in an area only slightly smaller than England, it is one of Europe's most sparsely populated countries.

The country has only been completely independent of Denmark for 80 years.



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

MARATHON

Athlete Kelvin Kiptum, holder of the world *marathon* record, has died in a car crash in his native Kenya, aged only 24. He set the record time of two hours and 35 seconds when he won the Chicago Marathon last October.

Definition

A running *race* of 26 miles 385 yards (42.195km). The term has also come to be used to describe any *arduous* or *long-lasting* activity.

Derivation

In 490BC a messenger ran 26 miles from the Greek battlefield at Marathon to Athens to report victory over the Persian army.

Did you know?

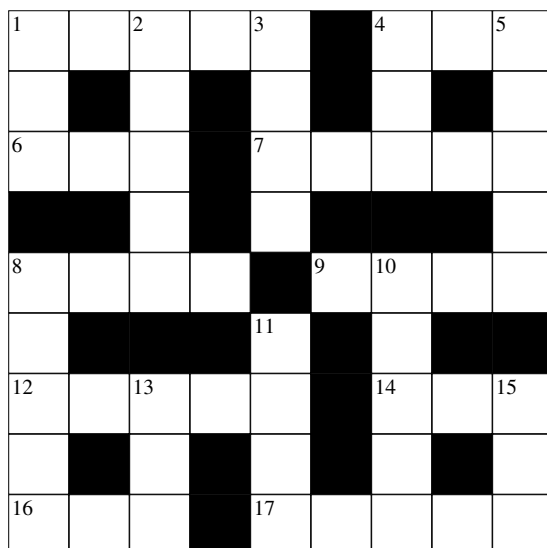
Marathon is the Greek word for the aniseed-flavoured vegetable fennel, which grew at the site of the battlefield.

NUMBER IN THE NEWS

22

The number of peregrine falcon chicks and eggs stolen from protected nests in Scotland and sold for thousands of pounds. Two men have pleaded guilty to the crime.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1&4 Prehistoric period roughly between 4000BC and 2000BC when mankind used basic tools (5,3)
- 6 Wet earth (3)
- 7 Sandwich (informal) (5)
- 8 Home to sheep and cows (4)
- 9 Someone from Glasgow, for example (4)
- 12 Part of Birmingham where Villa play football (5)
- 14 Married woman's title (3)
- 16&17 Tiny man in English folklore, the size of one of his dad's digits (3,5)

DOWN

- 1 TV fireman from Pontypandy (3)
- 2 Command (5)
- 3 Mediterranean island where Napoleon was exiled (4)
- 4 Painting or drawing, for example (3)
- 5 North African country, capital Cairo (5)
- 8 Large meal, often as a celebration (5)
- 10 Welsh name for Wales (5)
- 11 Make something from wool (4)
- 13 ___ Berners-Lee, inventor of the world wide web (3)
- 15 Cry (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**February
17, 1980**

Polish mountaineers Krzysztof Wielicki and Leszek Cichy became the first men to reach the summit of Everest, the world's highest mountain at 29,031 feet (8,848 metres), in winter.

February 18, 1930

A cow named Elm Farm Ollie holds a unique place in aviation history – the first cow to fly in an aeroplane!

The stunt took place at an air show in St Louis in the United States on February 18, 1930, to allow scientists to see the effects of flight on animals and to show the possibilities of moving livestock by air. Ollie was even milked during the 72-mile flight and produced 48 pints of milk.

She didn't quite get over the Moon and it is not known whether a little dog laughed...

**February 19,
1600**

The biggest volcanic eruption ever recorded in South America came when the Huaynaputina volcano in Peru exploded. So much ash was thrown into the air that the Sun was partly blocked, causing a 'volcanic winter' across the northern hemisphere.

February 21, 1918

The colourful Carolina parakeet became extinct when the last known surviving bird, a male named Incas, died in Cincinnati Zoo in the United States.

**FEBRUARY 20, 1547**

The King of England – at just nine years old!

Henry VIII is one of the best-known monarchs in English history – but the king who succeeded him was definitely one of the most unusual.

When Henry died in January 1547, he was succeeded by his son, who became Edward VI.

The son of Henry and his third wife, Jane Seymour, Edward was crowned three weeks later, on February 20, 1547 – when he was just nine years old.

His reign was marked by economic and social prob-

lems and a war with Scotland but, because of his age, Edward did not have to worry too much.

As he was still a child, the country was governed by a group called a regency council, led at first by his uncle, Edward Seymour.

Not only did he ascend to the throne young, he was to die young too, passing away at the age of only 15 after suffering from fever and lung disease.

Edward's six-year reign was followed by three disputed monarchs before his half-sister took the throne in 1558 as Queen Elizabeth I.

**FEBRUARY 22, 1983**

Arthur Bicknell's play Moose Murders did not go down well.

It opened in the famous theatre district on Broadway, New York, on February 22, 1983... and promptly closed that same night, never to be seen again.

New York Times theatre critic Frank Rich called it "the worst play I have ever seen on a Broadway stage".

Moose Murders' memory does live on though – the play is now often used as the standard against which other terrible Broadway flops are judged.

**FEBRUARY 23, 1945**

One of the fiercest Pacific Ocean battles of World War Two produced one of the war's most iconic photographs.

Four days after American forces landed on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took the picture of six soldiers struggling to plant the Stars and Stripes flag at the summit of Mount Suribachi, the island's highest point.

The picture became a

symbol of the American war effort in the Pacific and was copied for the US Marine Corps War Memorial statue at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia (pictured).

The Battle of Iwo Jima, fought for control of the island's two airfields, would go on for five weeks, and although it ended in an American victory they suffered heavy losses and senior military figures argued the island was not worth winning.



SO WE MEET AGAIN



» League Cup final, Wembley, February 25, 3pm

There will be a familiar feel when Liverpool take on Chelsea in the League Cup final next Sunday.

It will be the sixth time the two Premier League giants have met in major cup finals in the past 20 years and the third meeting in a League Cup final.

Chelsea won the first two encounters (see panel) while Liverpool have taken the trophies in the most recent three meetings – winning penalty shootouts after a drawn game each time.

Among those were two showdowns in 2022 when the pair came face to face in both League Cup and FA Cup finals in the same season. Remarkably, both games finished 0-0 after extra time before Liverpool won the shootouts – the first an epic 11-10 marathon.

In Jurgen Klopp's final season before he leaves the Anfield club after almost nine years, Liverpool are still in the running for four trophies.

As well as next Sunday's League Cup final meeting, they are still in the FA Cup (see below), are duelling with Manchester City and Arsenal at the top

Fact SHED	
Liverpool v Chelsea in major finals	
2005 League Cup	Chelsea 3-2 Liverpool after extra time
2012 FA Cup	Chelsea 2-1 Liverpool
2019 Uefa Super Cup	Liverpool 2-2 Chelsea aet; Liverpool won 5-4 on penalties
2022 League Cup	Liverpool 0-0 Chelsea aet; Liverpool won 11-10 on penalties
2022 FA Cup	Liverpool 0-0 Chelsea aet; Liverpool won 6-5 on penalties

of the Premier League and resume their Europa League campaign next season.

Chelsea will be hoping to claim their first silverware for three years as manager Mauricio Pochettino, in his first season in charge at Stamford Bridge, rebuilds after a turbulent period.

Whoever wins the League Cup final next Sunday, there will be little time to celebrate.

The fifth round of the FA Cup is played entirely in midweek again this season and Liverpool and Chelsea will be back in action three days after the Wembley showpiece, aiming to take a step closer to another cup final.

Both are at home to Championship clubs, Chelsea hosting Leeds while Liverpool's opposition at Anfield will be Southampton.

All eyes will be on Maidstone United, though, aiming to be only



the second non-League club to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals in 110 years. Lincoln City, then in the National League, lost to Arsenal at that stage in 2017.

FA Cup fifth round ties	
Mon, Feb 26	Coventry v Maidstone
Tues, Feb 27	Bournemouth v Leicester Blackburn v Newcastle Luton v Man City
Wed, Feb 28	Chelsea v Leeds Nottm Forest v Man Utd Wolves v Brighton Liverpool v Southampton

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS

There was an emotional ending to the Africa Cup of Nations when Ivory Coast striker Sebastien Haller scored a late winner in the final against Nigeria.

The former West Ham forward, now with German club Borussia Dortmund, clinched a 2-1 victory for the host nation, having also scored the winner against DR Congo in the semi-final.

But what makes Haller's heroics so remarkable is that it is barely a year since he returned to playing football after overcoming cancer. Haller was diagnosed with the disease in 2022 and twice had surgery during an eight-month battle to recover.

His winning goal turned the capital, Abidjan, into one big party as the country celebrated only its third triumph in the tournament's 67 years.

Elsewhere in world football, the host nation also came out on top in the Asian Cup final when Qatar beat surprise finalists Jordan 3-1.

DISCIPLINE

Football fans are used to seeing referees showing red or yellow cards to players – but they might soon be seeing a blue one too.

The game's authorities are to carry out trials of a sin-bin system which would be between a booking and a straight sending-off.

Under the proposal – which has been criticised by Premier League managers – a referee could show a blue card to send a player to a sin-bin for 10 minutes for showing dissent or committing cynical fouls to win an unfair advantage.

It is not yet known at what level of the game the trial will happen.

OLYMPIC GAMES

The world's most successful football nation will be missing from this summer's Olympic Games in Paris.

Brazil, five times World Cup champions, have been among the football medals at the last four Olympics, including winning gold at the last two.

But they missed out on Paris when they lost 1-0 to old rivals Argentina in the last game of the South American qualifying competition.

Argentina will join Paraguay as the continent's representatives.