



Get well soon Your Majesty

» King Charles starts treatment for cancer

Messages of support have flooded in this week after it was revealed that King Charles is being treated for cancer.

Well-wishers gathered in front of Buckingham Palace and messages came from presidents and prime ministers as well as ordinary people around the world.

The King had a separate hospital procedure recently and it was during that operation the cancer was found.

A statement from Buckingham Palace said: "During the King's recent hospital procedure, a separate issue of concern was noted. Tests have identified a form of cancer."

Officials have not revealed what type of cancer the King is suffering from but say it was not connected to his recent hospital procedure.

Regular treatment started immediately and doctors have advised him to cancel public duties while that is carried out.

The King was seen waving and smiling this week when he was taken by car for a helicopter trip to his country home at Sandringham in Norfolk.

Although he will not make public appearances, the King will continue to work in private.

As head of state, he receives official paperwork from the government and must sign any new laws before they officially come into force. He also holds a private meeting with the prime minister each week.

His public duties will be taken over by other senior members of the royal family, including Queen Camilla and the Prince of Wales – William has only this week returned to royal duties himself after caring for the Princess of Wales after her own operation.

The King's younger son, Prince Harry, immediately flew from his home in California to visit his father.

Driver papers over the cracks with car repair

Police ordered a car off the road when they spotted crash damage covered up with flowery wallpaper!

Officers taking part in a road safety campaign in Bradford said the wallpaper was attached with sticky tape in an unusual repair after a crash the previous day.

The car also had a dangerous bald tyre. It was towed to the driver's home and not allowed back on the road until proper repairs were carried out.

The five-year campaign by West Yorkshire Police has seen more than 2,300 cars forced off the roads because they were in a dangerous condition and 11,500 penalty notices handed out.

The police service posted on social media: "Yes, that is wallpaper and brown parcel tape covering accident damage from the day before."



999? No, no, no

The Welsh Ambulance Service has asked the public not to call unless there is a real emergency – after a man rang for help saying he had eaten too much kebab!

Among other calls wasting their time when they could be needed for serious cases were someone who had lost their false teeth and a man who got his hand stuck in his front door letterbox.

NEWS IN BRIEF



AUCTION

A collector has paid £18,000 for a set of false teeth worn by Britain's wartime leader Winston Churchill.

As reported in The News Shed a fortnight ago, the teeth were up for sale at an auction in Cheltenham and were expected to go for around £8,000. But Churchill's choppers sold for more than double that.

The Cotswold Auction Company admitted the teeth were among the strangest things it had ever sold.

They were used by the former prime minister to help cover up his natural lisp while making many of his famous World War Two speeches.

CHARITY

Lenny Henry has announced that next month's Comic Relief television charity show will be his last as a presenter.

The comedian, actor and children's book author was a co-founder of the charity which raises money to tackle poverty in the UK and abroad. It has run every year since 1985 with Lenny fronting the programme.

While he will step away from presenting, he remains life president of the organisation. Now 65, he said it was time to hand over the presenting role to a new generation of comedians.

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.literacysedplus.com

■ For contact details please see the website.

SHROVE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Why do we eat pancakes on this day each year?

Shrove Tuesday, which many people know simply as Pancake Day, is the last day before the start of Lent.

It is traditional in Christian religions for people to give up eating certain foods during Lent, the period leading up to Easter. Among those were traditionally rich, tasty food such as eggs, butter and sugar.

So on Shrove Tuesday, people would use up those foods which couldn't be eaten over the coming weeks – and if there were eggs in the cupboard, pancakes were the perfect way to use them up.



It's football – but not as we know it

» Shrovetide free-for-all takes over town

For hundreds of years, many towns and villages throughout Britain have marked Shrove Tuesday with mass rough-and-tumble games of 'football'.

Although that is what the games are called, they do not look much like the slick football we see in the Premier League. Instead, hundreds of players can be involved, all fighting to get their hands on the ball and move it from one end of the town to the other.

One of the best-known of these games is the Royal Shrovetide Football played in the Derbyshire town of Ashbourne each year. They love it so much, they do it all over again the following day, Ash Wednesday.

Shrovetide ball games have been played in places since the 13th century and the Ashbourne game is believed to have started in the mid-1600s.

The teams are traditionally made up of people who live on either side of the Henmore Brook river which runs through the town, although hundreds of others also arrive from elsewhere to take part.

The specially decorated ball is thrown into the crowd, often by a celebrity, and the two teams try to move it to score a goal by tapping it against stones at former mill sites at either end of town. At both ends, the scorer would have to climb into the river to reach the 'goal'.

Very often, the ball is lost from view for hours as huge scrums of people fight to get hold of it among crowds of players which fill the town centre.

The game got its 'royal' title in 1928 when the then Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, was the official starter. The prince ended up with a bloody nose for his trouble.

BIRDS

There is still time for children around Britain to take part in this year's Big Schools Birdwatch.

The nationwide survey follows last month's Big Garden Birdwatch, in which people around the country were asked to spend an hour counting the number and different types of birds which landed in their garden.

Both surveys are run by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which uses the information to find out how the populations of wild birds throughout the country are rising or falling.

Now it is school children's turn to help out by counting the birds in their school grounds and posting the results on the RSPB's website.

The count has been going on since early January but the last day for results to be posted is Monday, February 19, so there are still 10 days to get counting.

WATCH THE BIRDIE

» Your chance to help with major surveys

Families and schoolchildren are being asked to take part in two big surveys of the nation's birds.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) carries out the surveys each year to check whether the number of different birds are falling or rising.

In the Big Garden Birdwatch, families can spend one hour at any time between January 26 or 28 counting the birds that land in their garden. If you don't have a garden, you can choose a patch of land from a woodland or balcony.

The most spotted birds in 2023

1. House sparrow 1,401,338
2. Blue tit 904,637
3. Starling 904,079
4. Wood pigeon 750,251
5. Blackbird 716,734

part in the Big Schools Birdwatch from this week until February 19, counting birds in your school grounds.

Tens of thousands of people have already signed up and, in both surveys, people can take part by registering on RSPB's website.

How we reported the launch of the surveys earlier this year

Thousands have already taken part so the special information packs for schools have run out – but teachers can still download everything they need from the RSPB website.

www.rspb.org.uk

EMU

How about this as an excuse if you were late for school one morning: "Sorry Miss, we were held up because there was an emu in the road."

Do you think your teacher would buy that or think you were making up stories?

But that's exactly what happened in the Lancashire town of Rawtenstall recently when traffic was held up by one of the giant birds taking a stroll down the middle of the road.

One nervous learner driver had a shock when they screeched to a halt – only for the bird to turn round and chase after them as they carried on with their lesson.

Order was restored when the emu was finally caught and returned to the nearby farm from which it had escaped.

**HEDGES**

All the hedges in England placed end to end would wrap round the world ten times.

And that's just the 242,000 miles of hedges between one and six metres tall. There are a further 157,000 miles of hedges shorter or taller than that.

The figures come from a new survey by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, which has used satellite-based lasers to make accurate measurements so any major gaps can be filled.

Hedges are a vital part of our nature, not only for the plants and bushes they are made of but for the thousands of species of animals and insects which use them for shelter and protection.

FOREST

More than 100,000 trees are being planted in an area of Devon this winter as part of a plan to create a type of rainforest.

The National Trust is leading the scheme to create a temperate rainforest, also known as an Atlantic or Celtic rainforest.

It covers a large area of north Devon, including parts of Exmoor.

The rainforests have a wet climate, making them an ideal home for a variety of plants as well as wildlife such as pine martens and stoats.

National Trust tree expert John Deakin said: "Temperate rainforests used to be expansive wooded habitats along the western seaboard of the UK, but now all that's left are fragments."

MONKEYS

A man has appeared in court in France accused of being part of a gang which stole 14 rare and endangered monkeys from a zoo.

The squirrel monkeys, native to South and Central America, were taken from a zoo near Marseille.

One was found in the basement of the block of flats in the city where the accused man lives and a further two were left outside the home of a member of the public.



The remaining 11 have not been found and there are concerns for their safety.

COUNTRY IN THE NEWS

COLOMBIA

130 poisonous frogs in luggage

A woman was arrested and charged at Bogota airport in Colombia when officials found 130 poisonous frogs in her luggage.

The tiny creatures, smaller than an adult's thumb, were being carried in film canisters. The Brazilian woman said she had been given the amphibians as a gift but officials believe she was illegally smuggling wildlife.

Officials said illegal collectors can pay up to £1,000 each for the tiny but dangerous creatures.



The brightly coloured harlequin frogs are also known as poison-dart frogs. That is because the poison they give off from their skin when they are threatened used to be collected by tribesmen and placed on the tips of their spears.

Colombia is the most biodiverse country in the world for its size with 63,000 different species registered there. Nearly 9,000 of those species are not found anywhere else in the world.

Fact SHED



Colombia factfile

■ The Republic of Colombia sits in the extreme north-west corner of South America.

■ It has coastlines on both the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean and some of its islands are technically in North America, along with other Caribbean islands and the countries of Central America.

■ The name Colombia comes from the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, the first European to explore the area.

■ With more than 10 million residents, the capital, Bogota, is among the 30 biggest cities in the world.



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

DROUGHT

The Amazon rainforest, already badly affected by deforestation and climate change, has suffered its worst *drought* for 45 years, with the Rio Negro, one of the world's largest rivers, at its lowest level recorded for 100 years.

Definition

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

Derivation

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

Example

The drought left people and animals short of water and farmers struggling to grow their crops.

Synonyms

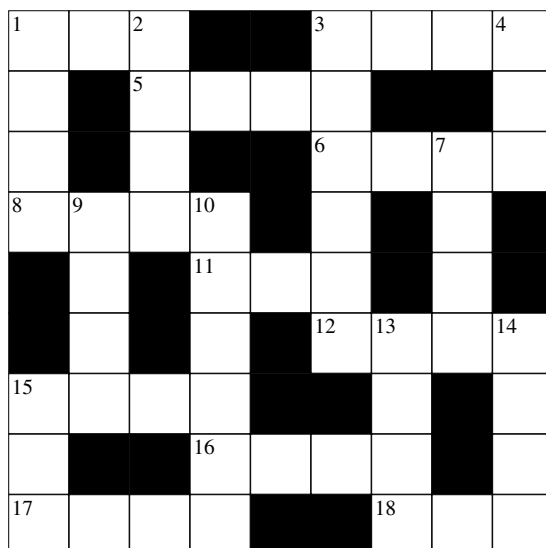
Lack, scarcity, dearth.

NUMBER IN THE NEWS

25

The surprisingly low number of times rugby union legend Barry John played for Wales across the 1960s and 1970s. The great fly-half died last weekend aged 79.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1&3 Feline entry (3,4)
- 5 Six deliveries in cricket (4)
- 6 Biblical garden (4)
- 8 Home of Italy's leaning tower (4)
- 11 Raincoat (abbreviation) (3)
- 12 see 3 down
- 15 Joint in the leg (4)
- 16 Biblical boat builder and animal rescuer (4)
- 17 Scottish loch said to have a monster (4)
- 18 Strange; not 7 down (3)

DOWN

- 1 Applaud (4)
- 2 Throw (especially a coin) (4)
- 3&12 across There are three of them in The 12 Days of Christmas (6,4)
- 4 Cooking vessel (4)
- 7 Smooth; not 18 across (4)
- 9 Metallic element; crease remover (4)
- 10 French city roughly halfway between Calais and Paris (6)
- 13 Repeated sound (4)
- 14 Potato (informal) (4)
- 15 Barbie's friend (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 10, 1996**

A computer known as Deep Blue beat world champion Garry Kasparov in a game of chess, the first computer to do so. It was the first of a six-game match, which Kasparov eventually won 4-2 overall. In a re-match the following year, Deep Blue won 3½-2½.

February 12, 1994

The Scream, the famous painting by Edvard Munch, was stolen from the National Gallery in Oslo, the capital of Norway.

The thieves left a note saying "Thanks for the poor security".

A different version of the same painting was stolen from the Munch Museum in the city 10 years later. Both copies were eventually recovered.

**February 13, 2000**

The final Peanuts cartoon strip appeared in newspapers, hours after the death of its author, Charles Schulz.

Featuring Snoopy, Charlie Brown and his friend Lucy, the series had run for 50 years with 17,897 strips published in all.

Repeats of previously published



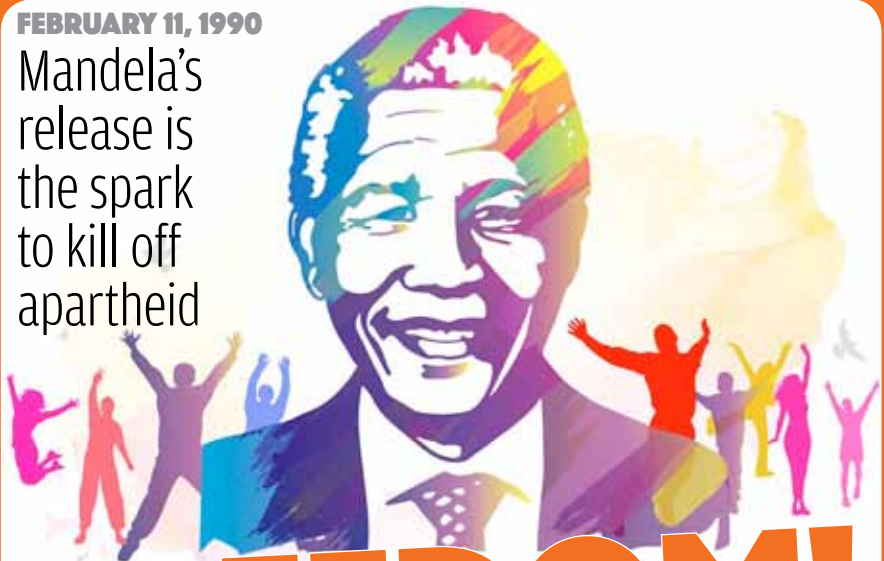
Peanuts cartoon strips began the next day and continue to this day.

February 14

St Valentine's Day is marked every year as a celebration of love with people giving each other gifts and cards. Did you know St Valentine is also the patron saint of the brain condition epilepsy and of beekeepers?

FEBRUARY 11, 1990

Mandela's release is the spark to kill off apartheid

**FREEDOM!**

Nelson Mandela became one of the world's most revered and admired people for his lifelong battle against the apartheid system in South Africa.

It was a fight which cost him 27 years in prison but eventually saw him become the country's first black president in 1994. An estimated billion people around the world watched the ceremony on television.

Apartheid, a system of racial segregation which meant black people had very few rights, was enforced in South Africa until late in the 20th century.

Mandela was part of an organisation fighting against the injustice until he was among a group arrested for sabotage in 1962. After two trials, he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Most famously, the first 18 years of his sentence were spent in the prison on Robben Island, four miles off the coast of Cape Town.

The remainder of his time locked up was at two mainland prisons until, on February 11, 1990, he was released by President FW de Klerk, who also legalised Mandela's political organisation, the African National Congress.

As he walked out of Victor Verster Prison, holding hands with his then wife Winnie, Mandela was greeted by thousands of cheering supporters as millions watched the emotional scenes live on television around the world.

Over the next four years, he campaigned against apartheid and negotiated with De Klerk until the hated system was abandoned and a general election was held in which, for the first time, people of all races were allowed to vote.

The ANC swept to victory and Mandela, as its leader, would serve as president for five years until his retirement in 1999. He died 14 years later, on December 5, 2013, at the age of 95.

February 15, 1971

It wasn't quite as easy to count your change at the shop until 1971.

That was when the UK switched to the decimal system of 100 pence in the pound.

Until then, the pound – which was worth the same – was split into 20 shillings, each made up of 12 old pence, meaning there were 240 old pennies in a pound.

So if you bought a magazine for £3.99, under the old system that would have been three pounds, 19 shillings and 9½ pence, shown as £3/19/9½ or £3 19s 9½d.

February 16, 1959

Controversial tennis star John McEnroe was born. Despite often getting into trouble for his on-court outbursts, he would go on to win Wimbledon three times and the US Open on four occasions, as well as 10 grand slam doubles finals.

SIMPLY RED



» Lewis Hamilton stunned the world of Formula 1 when it was announced he would switch teams from Mercedes to Ferrari for the 2025 season. In this special report, we turn the spotlight on the Italian outfit, one of the most celebrated teams in world sport

It started with an argument. Racing driver and manager Enzo Ferrari fell out with his bosses at the Alfa Romeo team and decided to go it alone. The rest is history.

His factory in the town of Maranello, near the Italian city of Bologna, was then bombed during World War Two but Ferrari rebuilt and continued to make racing cars as well as luxury road cars.

By the time the grand prix world championship began in 1950, he was ready to go – and the Ferrari team has been a big player ever since.

As it prepares for the 75th season, which starts in Bahrain next month, Ferrari is the only team to have competed in every championship.

And its famous red cars, carrying

Lewis Hamilton's domination of Formula 1 ended in 2020 when he won his seventh world championship and fourth in a row.

Since then, the Red Bull team has taken over with Max Verstappen winning the last three championships.

Hamilton will be 40 by the time he joins Ferrari next year – he

turns 40 in January next year – and he will be seeking to join a select group of drivers who have been world champions in their 40s.

Juan Manuel Fangio was 46, Nino Farina 43 and Jack Brabham 40.

Two British drivers, Graham Hill and Nigel Mansell, have lifted the title at the age of 39.



the 'prancing horse' logo, have been first past the chequered flag more than any other. It has won most races, 243, most constructors' championships and most drivers' championships (see panel below).

Its 15 drivers' titles have been won by nine different drivers, Michael Schumacher leading the way with five consecutive

championships from 2000 to 2004. They were part of his seven titles overall, a record since equalled by Lewis Hamilton.

Now the British driver, with 103 race wins to date, is himself set to become the latest figure in Ferrari's golden history and will be aiming to extend the record to eight titles as part of the team with which Schumacher dominated.

The sport's most successful driver piloting its most famous car in search of more glory will be a thrilling prospect.



Fact SHED

Ferrari have won more Formula 1 drivers' championships than any other team with 15 titles. The Italian team also holds the record for most constructors' championships – the total points won by both drivers combined – with 16.

Ferrari's F1 champions

1952	Alberto Ascari	(Italy)
1953	Alberto Ascari	(Italy)
1956	Juan Manuel Fangio	(Argentina)

1958	Mike Hawthorn	(GB)
1961	Phil Hill	(USA)
1964	John Surtees	(GB)
1975	Niki Lauda	(Austria)
1977	Niki Lauda	(Austria)
1979	Jody Scheckter	(South Africa)
2000	Michael Schumacher	(Germany)
2001	Michael Schumacher	(Germany)
2002	Michael Schumacher	(Germany)
2003	Michael Schumacher	(Germany)
2004	Michael Schumacher	(Germany)
2007	Kimi Raikkonen	(Finland)

Lewis Hamilton has won seven world drivers' championships, a record he jointly holds with Michael Schumacher.

Hamilton's titles and teams

2008	McLaren
2014	Mercedes
2015	Mercedes
2017	Mercedes
2018	Mercedes
2019	Mercedes
2020	Mercedes