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LABOUR'S CLIMATE STRATEGY STUNS CITY

OWEN BENNETT

@owenjbennett

SHADOW chancellor John McDonnell sent shockwaves through the Square Mile yesterday amid warnings that his plans to tackle climate change could undermine the entire financial system.

In a speech to trade body UK Finance, McDonnell promised a future Labour government would delist companies with poor green credentials from the London Stock Exchange.

He also unveiled a plan to stop money being invested in companies whose business model or actions run contrary to Labour's environmental policy.

Many in the City reacted with disbelief to the plans. Top financier Michael Spencer was scathing, describing the policies as "financial totalitarianism". The former Tory party treasurer said : "It would be a catastrophe for Britain's business community and the country's economy if it was ever carried out."

Mervyn Metcalf, managing director of Dean Street Advisers, warned such interference in the free movement of capital risked London's place as a global financial centre.

"Clearly, more has to be done to tackle climate change but a government's role should not be to interfere in a highly efficient and globally respected market to arbitrarily determine a 'climate change culprit'," he said.

"The impact of these proposals is far reaching and may fundamentally undermine the entire capital market system and with it decades of stability and investor trust."

Savvas Savouri, chief economist at Toscafund, was even more damning, dismissing McDonnell's plans as "infantile mumbo-jumbo".

He continued: "What we have from McDonnell is a wish to create a command economy, which he has miraculously written the perfect playbook for. Deluded does not do him justice."

Setting out his vision for increased regulation of the City, McDonnell claimed the government needed to do more to "improve the fitness" of financial institutions to ensure the UK is meeting its climate commitments.

"This means mobilising private sector resources for green investment, but it also means preventing financial institutions from actively contributing to planetary heating or exposing our economy to financial instability," he said.

McDonnell, who has invited Extinction Rebellion protesters to brief his policy team, pledged that a Labour government would create a Sustainable Investment Board – comprised of the chancellor, business secretary and Bank of England governor – to oversee private investment decisions.

"The Sustainable Investment Board will have responsibility for ensuring that the Bank of England is doing its bit to stop money flowing to projects that will kill the planet or destabilise our economy," he revealed.

John McDonnell has set out his plans

Activist riles First before showdown

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

THE ACTIVIST investor seeking to overhaul transport giant First Group at a showdown today has said it believes more shareholders will join it in voting against the firm's chairman.

Coast Capital, which owns a near 10 per cent stake in First, has been agitating for a radical shake-up of the company, including the splitting of its UK and US assets, withdrawing from Britain's railways and overhauling its board by appointing six of its own nominees. Yesterday Coast received a boost after Sky News reported Schroders and Columbia Threadneedle Investments, which own nine per cent and 10 per cent in First respectively, said they would oppose the re-election of chairman Wolfhart Hauser.

Coast's chief investment officer James Rasteh told *City A.M:* "We are thrilled and grateful and believe there are many more to come."

Rasteh added that another top shareholder told Coast that it had "had it up to the back teeth" with the current chairman.

A First spokesperson said: "Coast's aim is to seize control of a UK plc without paying a premium. Their plans are not in the best interests of all shareholders."

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THE CITY VIEW

The purpose of a think tank is up for debate

DO YOU KNOW what a think tank is, and can you name one? An amusing survey published yesterday revealed a yawning gap between the Westminster bubble and the average Brit. Just 75 people out of 2,000 could name a think tank. "So few people know what think tanks are that these numbers are not statistically significant," the surveyors concluded in the report.

Unperturbed by their anonymity, this morning sees two very different think tanks pitching for headlines. The Institute for Fiscal Studies, or IFS – named by just 0.3 per cent of people in the survey above – has published a breakdown of the tax reforms recently proposed by former foreign secretary and Tory leadership contender Boris Johnson. Meanwhile, the notably more Thatcherite Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) – named by 0.2 per cent of people – has published a pamphlet on the wild discrepancies between the UK's regions when it comes to attracting foreign investment. Both publications are essentially tackling the topic of fairness and equality in Britain.

The IFS, the country's most independent fiscal watchdog, makes some legitimate points regarding Johnson's plan to raise the higher rate threshold for income tax to £80,000 – primarily, the extent to which the move would benefit wealthy pensioners more than salaried employees. This is because the national insurance system to some extent offsets the benefit of a higher threshold, and pensioners do not pay NI on their incomes.

If that is Johnson's intention, so be it, but if he wants to help today's workers he could combine a more realistic increase in the higher rate threshold with a rise in the NI threshold for everyone in Britain.

Separately, the CPS lays bare the astonishing economic gap between the south east and many other parts of the country. To attract exporting businesses and greater investment to poorer areas, it proposes more low-tax "opportunity zones" and free ports (which would exist outside the UK for customs purposes). These ideas demonstrate one purpose for think tanks, as a playground for policy ideas that can be debated and picked up by inquisitive politicians. The IFS demonstrates another key purpose: holding politicians to account. Think tanks are often divisive, controversial, and, for much of the public, below the radar – but without them our democracy would be in a weaker state.

Follow us on Twitter @cityam

MAKE MINE A BARREL Sailors deliver wine to the constable of the Tower of London in a ceremony dating to the 14th century

SAILORS from HMS Enterprise yesterday delivered wine to the Tower of London in a ceremony called the constable's dues. The tradition represents the Crown's authority over the City of London. In the Middle Ages, kings believed they had the right to levy taxes on the River Thames. The constable of the Tower of London was empowered to enforce these tolls on the King's behalf.

Swiss bans EU exchanges in row over equivalence

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

THE SWISS government said yesterday it was ready to ban stock exchanges in the European Union from trading Swiss shares, in a row that could have repercussions for the City post-Brexit.

The move follows the EU's refusal to extend stock market equivalence for Switzerland, after Brussels grew frustrated with a lack of movement on an EU-Swiss accord.

Stock market equivalence is the recognition that Switzerland's regulations are as tough as the EU's own.

The EU's equivalence agreement with Switzerland is set to expire on 30 June. The EU has signalled it is not willing to extend the deadline.

In retaliation the Swiss government said it would withdraw recognition from trading venues in the EU from 1 July to "protect the Swiss stock exchange infrastructure in the event of non-extension".

"Trading venues in the EU would thus be prohibited from offering or facilitating trading in certain shares of Swiss companies from that date," the Swiss government said in a statement yesterday.

The row has implications for the UK's financial sector as it highlights the danger of relying on equivalence for access to the EU's financial markets as the recognition can be withdrawn unilaterally.

The risk of being locked out of the EU market has pushed many UK-based financial institutions to open EU branches in order to keep trading throughout the bloc after Brexit.

The EU's hard line with Switzerland is also linked to Brexit as a lenient approach to the Swiss could encourage London to seek softer terms, an EU diplomat told Reuters.

Six, the operator of the Swiss exchange, said it welcomed the Swiss government's decision to enact protective measures as it meant EU participants could still access the Swiss domestic market and could trade Swiss shares directly at Six.

Pan-European stock trading platform Aquis Exchange said; "If equivalence is not extended, and if the Swiss Federal Department of Finance (FDF) rescinds recognition of EU trading venues for the trading of Swiss securities, then Aquis Exchange will take the necessary steps to comply with the directive."

The relations between the EU and Switzerland are governed by more than 120 bilateral agreements.

They are set to be replaced with a political treaty, however the Swiss government earlier this month asked for further clarifications before it would sign off on the draft agreement.

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

ALPHABET REVEALS PLANS FOR TORONTO SMART CITY

A subsidiary of Google parent company Alphabet yesterday revealed plans to transform part of Toronto into a data-driven city of the future. Sidewalk Labs presented a blueprint for Toronto's Quayside and Villiers West districts that included features such as smart traffic lights and dynamic curbs, designed to make urban life more efficient.

STARTUP TRAX ACQUIRES REWARDS APP SHOPKICK

Singaporean-based startup Trax yesterday said it had bought Californian shopping rewards app Shopkick for an undisclosed price. Trax brings together data from in-store cameras and an app to guide shoppers to purchases in bricks-and-mortar stores. Shopkick last changed hands in 2014 when Korea's SK Telecom bought it in a $200m (£157m) transaction.

THE TIMES

£16M HARRODS BILL NOT A CRIME, MCMAFIA TRIAL TOLD

Spending millions of pounds at Harrods is not a crime and does not justify extraditing a "McMafia" wife to face trial under a corrupt regime, a court was told yesterday. Lawyers for the wife of a jailed banker said she would face an unfair trial in Azerbaijan.

QUESTION TIME FOR CITY WATCHDOG CHIEFS

Andrew Bailey and Charles Randell face a second hearing with the Treasury Select Committee in Westminster's Portcullis House this morning, as the chief executive and chairman of the regulator Financial Conduct Authority brace for a rough ride with MPs.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

JEREMY HUNT PLEDGES £15BN EXTRA FOR DEFENCE

Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt yesterday promised an extra £15bn in defence spending if he wins the race to become the new prime minister. Hunt said he would increase defence spending to the Nato target of 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product to combat the threat from Russia.

FAST FOOD OUTLETS TO GET TAX CUTS THROUGH SALAD

Fast food outlets will get tax cuts for putting salads on their menu, under government plans to combat obesity. Ministers today backed measures that will see restaurants and cafes receive discounts on their business rates.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

GOOGLE'S ENEMIES GEAR UP TO MAKE ANTITRUST CASE

As US officials prepare an antitrust probe of Alphabet's Google and possibly other Silicon Valley giants, Google's rivals are readying documents and data in anticipation of meetings with the Justice Department, according to industry representatives.

TRUMP SIGNS ORDER ON PRICES IN HEALTHCARE

US President Trump pushed for greater price disclosure in healthcare, signing an executive order that could make thousands of hospitals expose more pricing information and require doctors, health clinics and others to tell patients about out-of-pocket costs upfront.

Monzo smashes past £2bn valuation in fresh round from Silicon fund

EMILY NICOLLE

@emilyjnicolle

JUST six months on from its last capital plug, digital bank Monzo has raised £113m from major US tech investor Y Combinator in a round that values the startup at more than £2bn.

Through its Continuity fund, Y Combinator joined the round alongside other investors including Latitude, General Catalyst, Stripe, Passion Capital, Thrive, Goodwater, Accel and Orange Digital Ventures.

At an increase of more than £1bn since its last valuation in October, the new figure puts Monzo ahead of its largest rival Revolut – last valued at $1.7bn (£1.3bn) in April 2018.

However it lags behind European competitor N26 and fellow fintech star Transferwise, valued at $2.7bn and $3.5bn respectively.

Y Combinator is best known for its long-running startup accelerator, which has produced the likes of Airbnb, Dropbox and Coinbase.

The Silicon Valley stalwart rarely invests in companies that are not alumni, however Monzo chief Tom Blomfield previously went through the programme via his involvement in fintech startup Gocardless.

A spokesperson for Monzo said it will use the funding to continue strategies already in the pipeline, such as its recently announced US expansion.

Continuity partner Anu Hariharan told *City A.M.* Monzo's enthusiastic customer base made it a standout player in the digital banking space.

"It's the most transparent bank, period," she said. "We've seen [this approach] in other products such as social networks or consumer apps, but it's unheard of in banking."

LET THE CHIPS FALL

EU set to hit Qualcomm with antitrust fine

CHIP maker Qualcomm could be hit with a second antitrust fine by European regulators as soon as next month, sources told Bloomberg yesterday. Competition chief Margrethe Vestager levied a €997m (£891.5m) fine against Qualcomm last year over a licensing deal with tech giant Apple.

US-UK should lead on finance

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

FINANCIAL services should be at the heart of a future UK-US trade deal, City of London Corporation policy chair Catherine McGuinness will say today.

Speaking at the Centre for Policy Studies' Margaret Thatcher conference, McGuinness will say: "The UK and US enjoy a special relationship in many areas, and I am confident any future free trade agreement would only strengthen our relationship further.

"We look forward to any future framework having financial services at its heart. It must also lay the framework for greater cooperation on developing the international regulatory landscape."

Unicredit puts on hold bid for Commerzbank

PAMELA BARBAGLIA

ITALY's Unicredit has put a possible bid for Commerzbank on ice as the German rival does not want to engage in negotiations so soon after the collapse of merger talks with Deutsche Bank, four sources said.

Unicredit had stepped up preparations for a potential takeover of Commerzbank by engaging Lazard and its banker Joerg Asmussen along with JP Morgan, people familiar with the matter said in May.

That raised the prospect of a deal that would allow Italy's largest bank by assets to shift its focus away from its domestic market, a key plank of chief executive Jean-Pierre Mustier's strategy.

But the advisers have had little luck discussing a possible bid with Commerzbank, which is represented by Goldman Sachs and Rothschild, and have been left on standby, the sources said. *Reuters*

Trump attacks Fed again despite Wall Street rally

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has once again attacked his country's central bank, saying on Twitter that the Federal Reserve "doesn't know what it is doing".

Trump's tweets come a week after the Fed opted to hold interest rates between 2.25 and 2.50 per cent, but suggested it would soon opt for a cut.

The President has repeatedly attacked the Fed for not cutting interest rates, which he has said would make the US economy "rocket".

His attack on the Fed comes despite a market rally that took place last week when the Fed hinted at future interest rate cuts.

Trump said the central bank had "raised rates far too fast". He said "very low inflation" and "other parts of [the] world slowing, lowering and easing" meant this was a mistake.

Yet he claimed that it was in spite of the Fed's actions that the US was on course to have "one of the best months of June in US history".

Trump was likely basing this claim on the performance of US stocks, which are set for their best first half in over 20 years. The first half ends on Friday.

However, growth in the US jobs market slowed sharply in May as the economy sends mixed signals.

The President also renewed his accusations that other countries were acting unfairly in the global economy.

He later added the Fed needed to lower rates "to make up for what other countries are doing against us".

Trump: Fed "raised rates far too fast"

China called on to help US in protecting oil shipping routes

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump yesterday called on China, Japan and "many other countries," to protect international shipping from Iranian attacks, as tensions ratchet up in the Middle East.

Trump asked why the US, which stations its Fifth Fleet close to the vital Strait of Hormuz, is footing the bill for protection.

It comes after several attacks on a number of international oil tankers. The choke point carries around a fifth of global oil supplies to international markets.

Increased US shale production has made the country less reliant on Middle Eastern oil.

Later the President imposed new sanctions on several Iranians, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Recent escalating tensions between the two countries nearly claimed their first lives last week after Iran shot down a US drone.

Trump said he had decided against a counter-strike which would have killed 150 in Iran.

Meanwhile, Tehran said it had deliberately not shot down a US plane carrying 35 people that was accompanying the drone.

Capgemini in €3.6bn deal for engineering services firm Altran

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

CONSULTANCY firm Capgemini yesterday said it agreed to buy engineering and digital services company Altran for €3.6bn (£3.2bn) to tap into the fast-growing engineering outsourcing services market.

With the deal, Capgemini said it hoped to respond to demand from its customers to outsource engineers and research teams.

Capgemini said it would pay €3.6bn in cash and would assume Altran's net debt of €1.4bn.

The company would have annual revenues of €17bn.

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PRESCOTT HOSPITALISED Former deputy prime minister suffered stroke last Friday

JOHN Prescott, the former deputy prime minister, has been admitted to hospital after he suffered a stroke. In a statement, Lord Prescott's family said the former MP for Hull East was taken to the Hull Royal Infirmary last Friday.

MP accuses Treasury of dirty tricks over panel conflict claims

LOUIS ASHWORTH

@Louis_Ashworth

A PROMINENT Conservative MP involved in efforts to help small businesses caught in lending disputes has accused Treasury officials of undertaking a media campaign to discredit him.

Kevin Hollinrake, co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Fair Business Banking, said there had been a "deliberate and coordinated attempt" to undermine him over an alleged conflict of interest.

The MP, a long-standing campaigner against wrongdoing within British banks, is heavily linked with an estate agent that is involved in a legal case against one of the banks involved in the creation of a new dispute resolution scheme.

Hollinrake's APPG is one of several representative groups – including banks, campaigners, government representatives and trade body UK Finance – on the implementation steering group of the Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS), which is tasked with developing a new ombudsman-style service to assist small businesses that have become caught in lending disputes.

Last Wednesday, Hollinrake wrote to Lewis Shand Smith, chair of the steering group. The MP claimed that a national broadcaster and newspaper had been wrongly informed that he was preparing to step down from the group.

Last week, the Financial Times published a story claiming Hollinrake was under pressure to step down over claims he had hidden the conflict of interest.

Hollinrake is both chair and a major shareholder in Hunters Property Group, an Aim-listed estate agent.

Hunters, which previously took out a tailored business loan from Yorkshire Bank owner CYBG – which is part of the steering body – has registered with a group suing the bank and its former owner.

In a letter to Philip Hammond yesterday, Hollinrake fired back and demanded the chancellor explain what role Treasury officials played in the claims being reported.

"I am very disturbed by the allegations, which I believe are untrue and without foundation, but principally that Treasury officials might seek to undermine my role and credibility this way," he wrote.

A Treasury spokesperson said no discussions had occurred between officials and members of the media.

May promised one final hurrah at PMQs before new leader settles in

JOE CURTIS

@joe_r_curtis

BRITAIN's next Prime Minister will be revealed on Tuesday 23 July, it was reported yesterday.

The new Prime Minister will then take power the following day, according to the Sun.

Officials will finish counting Conservative party postal votes on Monday 22 July.

Theresa May will carry on as Prime Minister for 24 hours after the announcement of her successor, and host a final Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in parliament before handing her resignation to the Queen on 24 July.

Jeremy Hunt or Boris Johnson will then be appointed as the new Prime Minister. The leadership contenders have just embarked on a series of hustings around the country as they vie for power.

Sky cancelled a head-to-head debate between the candidates scheduled for today after Johnson refused to take part. Instead Sky will invite Hunt and Johnson to a debate on 1 July.

A filmed debate on ITV on 9 July will take place once Conservative party members have received their postal ballots.

May said yesterday the new Prime Minister may not face questions from MPs on Brexit plans until September due to parliament's recess.

CBI and Oracle: Large UK firms lagging on tech

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

LARGE UK companies are adding to the country's productivity crisis by failing to adopt new technologies that could boost their output, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and US software giant Oracle have warned.

If just one in 100 business adopted a new approach to innovation, technology and management practices, they could add £100bn to the UK economy in the coming years, according to a report released today by the two organisations.

It comes as Britain struggles to increase its productivity – how much output is created with the same amount of input.

Productivity is around 20 per cent below where it would have been if it had continued at pre-financial crisis levels, the Bank of England said in a recent report.

Key sectors such as financial services and construction have experienced negative productivity growth since 2008, the CBI and Oracle said.

But they argued that greater adoption of technology could boost productivity and wage growth, which could help reduce inequality by raising pay at firms across the country, not just at a select few.

The CBI and Oracle urged large firms to make a series of changes. Senior business leaders should commit to addressing cyber risks, they said.

Workforces must be "digitally empowered". For example they should be retrained to use the latest hardware and software and comfortably adapt to changing ways of working.

Felicity Burch, the CBI's director of digital and innovation, said: "For the UK's big hitters to secure their position as world leaders over the next 10 years, senior business leaders must be prepared to challenge their established ways of operating."

Opposition candidate Ekre Imamoglu won 54 per cent of votes in the election re-run

Turkish assets rally as ruling AK Party concede Istanbul defeat

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

TURKISH assets climbed in value yesterday after the country's opposition beat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party (AKP) in the re-run Istanbul mayoral election.

The Turkish lira rose as much as two per cent against the dollar yesterday, but later pared gains to reach 17 cents. Turkey's Borsa Istanbul 100 index rose 1.23 per cent.

The acceptance of the Istanbul result by Erdogan's party and a respite in political uncertainty calmed investors' nerves.

Yet Maya Senussi of Oxford Economics said "the focus will quickly shift" to other issues such as possible US sanctions on Turkey.

Bitcoin retreats from high on Facebook fever

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henry_g_robertson

BITCOIN pulled back from an 18-month high yesterday after breaking the $11,000 (£8,637) barrier over the weekend, with many attributing the rise to the launch of Facebook's libra coin.

The world's biggest cryptocurrency reached $11,248 on Sunday, according to data from Luxembourg's Bitstamp exchange.

Bitcoin then lost some of its gains yesterday, falling as low as $10,551 in the session's early hours,

Numerous analysts said the rocketing price was thanks in large part to Facebook's announcement of its intention to launch its own cryptocurrency called libra. Last week when Mark Zuckerberg's company made the announcement, Bitcoin stood at around $9,300.

Naeem Aslam of Think Markets said Facebook's move had "renewed mainstream interest in cryptocurrencies and the technology that underlines it".

Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda, said traders saw the news as "legitimising the industry which has come under scrutiny since falling more than 80 per cent from its peak" in 2017.

Italian bond yields fall and prices rise amid hopes EU will halt budget clash

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

THE COST of Italian government borrowing neared one-year lows yesterday following reports that the European Union will halt plans to discipline the country over its high levels of public debt.

Italy's 10-year bond yield – which moves inversely to prices – fell by almost 0.1 percentage points soon after trading opened yesterday morning to 2.077 per cent.

It then rebounded to close at 2.161 per cent. Yields stood at 2.368 per cent 10 days ago.

Hints from the European Central Bank (ECB) last week that it could ease interest rates or relaunch stimulus measures have also pushed Eurozone bond prices up and yields down.

Much of the early-morning confidence in Italian bonds was due to a Financial Times report that Brussels will hold off from launching a crackdown on Rome over its rising public debt.

However, Jack Allen-Reynolds, senior Europe economist at Capital Economics, said: "The main thing that investors are focusing on at the moment are prospects for further monetary loosening from the European Central Bank."

Yet he said Italy's weak economic position meant there was a high chance yields could "balloon again".

German bosses pessimistic about economic outlook

HARRY ROBERTSON

@henrygrobertson

GERMAN company managers were at their most pessimistic about the economy since the end of 2014 in June, according to the country's Ifo Institute think tank.

Meanwhile managers' views of business prospects in the next half year fell for the third straight month, Ifo's closely-watched business climate index showed yesterday.

Ifo's business climate index fell to 97.4 points in June from 97.9 in May. It was dragged down by the business expectations index, which fell to 94.2 from 95.2 the previous month.

Consensus forecasts had expected the business climate index to fall to 97.3 points.

Clemens Fuest, president of the Ifo Institute, said: "The German economy is heading for the doldrums."

Christina Iacovides of Capital Economics, said the weak index score suggests "Germany's industrial recession has dragged on".

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Jackpot deal: Eldorado snaps up fellow casino firm Caesars for $17bn

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

GAMBLING giants Eldorado Resort and Caesars Entertainment are hoping to win big after signing an $17bn (£13.6bn) merger that is set to create one of the world's largest casino operators.

Eldorado revealed plans yesterday for a cash-and-stock deal to acquire Caesars, in a move that would see it run roughly 60 casino resorts and gaming facilities across 16 US states.

The new company will keep the name Caesars, which owns iconic casino venues including Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, and will continue to trade on the Nasdaq.

Shares in Caesars jumped almost 15 per cent yesterday after the $12.75 a share deal was revealed, while Eldorado dropped 10.6 per cent.

The move comes four years after Caesars filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection following an economic downturn and rising competition.

The firms will continue to trade under the Caesars name

"The transaction is transformational for each company's shareholders, employees and customers, combining Eldorado's operational expertise with Caesars industry-leading loyalty program, regional network and Las Vegas assets," the firms said.

Online retailer Mysale has been struggling in Australia, which is its main market

Mysale up for grabs as Philip Green-backed store struggles

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

4.18%

AN ONLINE retailer backed by Topshop tycoon Sir Philip Green has put itself up for sale amid troubles in its core Australian market.

Mysale said yesterday that it has launched a strategic review that will assess "all types of corporate activity", including debt reduction, further capital raising and the possibility of de-listing from London's AIM. Shares fell more than four per cent on the news yesterday.

"Philip Green continues to hold a large stake in the company but probably has enough on his plate rescuing Arcadia to come to Mysale's rescue," said AJ Bell's investment director Russ Mould.

BBC's Sarnoff named Warner Bros top boss

HELEN COSTER

WARNERMEDIA yesterday said it had appointed Ann Sarnoff as the chief executive officer of Warner Bros, the first woman to run one of Hollywood's most powerful studios in its 96-year history.

Sarnoff, who is president of BBC Studios Americas, will take over the studio behind 'Wonder Woman', 'Friends' and the Harry Potter franchise, following a scandal involving its previous studio chief.

"I want to work closely with colleagues across WarnerMedia and make the whole more than the part," Sarnoff said. "I want to take a what is a very successful legacy and history and make it even stronger."

AT&T acquired Warner Bros as part of its $85bn (£66.75bn) purchase of Time Warner last year.

Some Warner Bros content will be distributed on a new WarnerMedia streaming service set to launch in early 2020. *Reuters*

Property Pints with BuyAssociation

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If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to events@cityam.com

CITY A.M. BuyAssociation CITY AM CLUB

Queen to get £3m more on Crown Estate profits

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

THE QUEEN is set to receive a £3m revenue boost after the Crown Estate today announced its income for 2018/19 grew 4.3 per cent.

The Crown Estate said it was returning £343.5m to the Treasury, up from £329.4m in 2017/18.

The Royal Family is set to receive 25 per cent of that money through the Sovereign Grant, which based on this year's result would be equivalent to £85.8m.

Last year the Crown Estate returned £329.4m, meaning the Queen's 25 per cent was £82.3m.

The Sovereign Grant is calculated two years in advance based on the Crown Estate's income.

The Crown Estate said its performance was ahead of the market, with a total return of 4.9 per cent against its bespoke benchmark of 3.1 per cent.

It said this was driven by the growth of its offshore wind business and acquisitions and asset management in central London.

The Crown Estate is a collection of lands and holdings belonging to the British monarch, but managed in the public interest.

It includes more than half of the UK's foreshore, Ascot Racecourse and a large number of properties in central London.

It does not include the Queen's private properties such as Balmoral and Sandringham.

The Crown Estate owns a number of properties in central London

Dame Alison Nimmo, chief executive of the Crown Estate said: "Despite challenging market conditions we have delivered another set of strong results and our 11th consecutive year of outperformance."

Retailers bolstered by rise in US shoppers buying in Britain

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

US SHOPPERS have been snapping up luxury products in the UK, providing a much-needed transatlantic boon for Britain's high street retailers.

UK retail sales to American shoppers jumped 27 per cent in May year-on-year, amid a drop in the pound and rising US consumer confidence.

According to Planet, the international payments company that released the data, the average spend by a US shopper in the UK rose to an average €474 (£424) in May, rising by €110 when compared with €364 recorded a year earlier.

"Once known predominantly as a cultural and heritage destination, shoppers from across the globe are now seeing the UK as one of Europe's bigger-ticket luxury shopping destinations and are beginning to spend more per purchase while here," said David Perrotta, UK country manager at Planet.

Retail sales to international shoppers across Europe more widely were also strong, with retailers witnessing a seven per cent rise in sales.

Ex-Venezuelan oil minister asks court to set aside $1.4bn ruling

TOM BROWN

FORMER Venezuelan oil minister Rafael Ramirez asked a federal judge in Houston yesterday to set aside a $1.4bn (£1bn) default verdict against him in a fraud suit brought by a defunct Houston oil company, according to court documents.

Ramirez, who was Venezuela's oil minister and later served as its foreign minister and UN ambassador, said Harvest Natural Resources and HNR Energia had failed to properly serve him notice of the lawsuit.

Harvest accused Ramirez of seeking a $10m bribe to approve the sale of the firm's assets. *Reuters*

Investor Barrick 'undermined' Acacia in tax tiff

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

ACACIA Mining hit out at Barrick Gold yesterday as the firms swapped jibes over a potential takeover bid.

Acacia, a Tanzania-focused gold company, accused Barrick of undermining its attempts to negotiate with the country's government.

The miner has faced a tax dispute with the regime of Tanzanian President John Magufuli since 2017.

Magufuli claims Acacia underreported the level of gold in its exports for decades and owes $190bn (£149bn) in back taxes.

Barrick, which owns two-thirds of Acacia, sent a delegation to Tanzania in 2017 to speak to the regime.

Acacia said yesterday it "did not invite Barrick's intervention", and accused the shareholder of "undermining Acacia in Tanzania."

"Acacia was continuing its own engagements with the highest levels of the government of Tanzania at the time and had no reason to believe that these engagements would not continue," the company said.

Meanwhile, Barrick said it was exploring a bid to take Acacia private in May. It proposed buying out Acacia's investors in an all-share deal.

Acacia yesterday disagreed with the way Barrick had valued the company, and questioned the time spent on Tanzanian negotiations.

Experts believe Magufuli will want to reach a deal before international arbitration starts in late July.

One City analyst said Barrick would harm its public image if it did not table a new offer for Acacia, or deliver a deal with Tanzania.

"They have said for two years that they're going to deliver a resolution or a solution to the dispute. In that sense, you either have to deliver the resolution, which they haven't done, or you have to deliver a credible offer that will be accepted," the analyst said.

The RMT union will ballot members tomorrow on industrial action this summer

Londoners brace for Tube chaos as union ballots for strike action

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

LONDONERS are braced for transport misery as the RMT rail union prepares to ballot its members tomorrow on a summer Tube strike.

The RMT claimed it is being hurt by job cuts and privatisation under Transport for London's (TfL) cost-cutting programme, which has caused it to slash back-office costs by about 30 per cent so far.

Nearly 2,000 staff members, including those involved in engineering, signals and the track and control centre, will be asked if they want to strike over the summer.

A TfL spokesperson said it was consulting with staff and unions.

Danske Bank sacks former interim chief

JOE CURTIS

@joe_r_curtis

DANSKE Bank plunged into a fresh crisis yesterday as it fired the man who served as its interim chief executive during a money laundering scandal.

The embattled Danish bank dismissed Jesper Nielsen from his role as head of banking and his membership of the bank's executive board.

It blamed Nielsen for overcharging 87,000 customers by 400m Danish krone (£47.9m) for a banking product called Flexinvest Fri, which Danske is now compensating them for.

Danske said it had set the fees for Flexinvest Fri at too high a level compared to expected returns between July 2017 and 19 November 2018.

"This meant that fees were too high for all customers, and it made the product unsuitable for some customers," Danske said.

Danske said it expects to receive "justified and severe criticism" from the Danish financial regulator for the incident.

Danske later lowered the fees in November.

5G launching in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Birmingham and Manchester with roll out across other UK cities during 2019. Check ee.co.uk/coverage. Speeds vary by location, coverage and demand. 5G coverage and compatible device needed.

Cake Box serves up a treat in first post-float result

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

CAKE Box has posted a sharp rise in revenue and profit for the full year as customers get a taste for its egg-free products.

The cream-cake specialist posted a 33 per cent rise in revenue to £16.9m in the year to the end of March, while pre-tax profit increased 14 per cent to £3.8m overall.

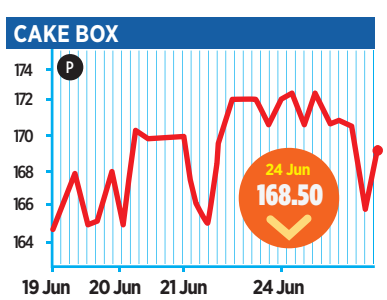
The figures mark a strong year of trading for the retailer, which floated on London's Aim last summer, although revenue fell just short of the £17.1m forecast earlier this year.

The chain, which is celebrating its tenth year, opened 27 new franchise stores across the UK, taking its total to 113 stores.

There was also an added sweetener for investors, as the company increased its final dividend by 50 per cent to 2.4p.

Cake Box said it was confident of maintaining its growth strategy of two new franchise store openings a month.

"These results demonstrate the continuing appeal of the Cake Box brand, to both customers and franchises, combined with the financial strength of the group, particularly the strong cash generative nature of our business model," said chief executive Sukh Chamdal.



Profit warning also impacted the stock prices of rivals BMW and Volkswagen

Daimler falls short after its third profit warning this financial year

JOE CURTIS

@joe_r_curtis

3.02%

DAIMLER's share price fell more than three per cent yesterday after issuing a third profit warning this financial year.

The Mercedes-Benz manufacturer warned investors that investigations into diesel vehicles is likely to hit profit by a "high three-digit million euro amount".

The car maker now expects 2019 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation to fall in line with the €11.1bn (£9.9bn) of the previous year. Previously it predicted a slight rise in earnings.

Daimler is being investigated in Europe and the US over emissions, and an October profit warning also related to diesel concerns.

China wades in as Fedex blocks Huawei parcel

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

CHINA'S foreign ministry has called on Fedex to offer a proper explanation after the courier firm apologised for blocking the shipment of a Huawei phone to the US.

Fedex has sparked anger in China after it emerged the firm returned a package containing a Huawei phone to its sender in the UK, a writer at US publication PC Magazine, which later wrote about the matter.

The delivery company blamed the return on an "operational error", and said it would deliver all Huawei products unless they were directed to addresses affected by a US trade blacklist.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang yesterday called for further explanation, and the alleged mistake sparked anger in Chinese state media, which suggested Fedex could be added to an upcoming blacklist.

Chinese authorities are currently investigating Fedex for misrouting packages sent by Huawei last month. Meanwhile, China is also drawing up a so-called 'unreliable entities' list of foreign firms, groups and individuals.

Shares in German store chain Metro climb after offer from Czech and Slovak investors

EMMA THOMASSON

SHARES in German retailer Metro climbed yesterday after EP Global Commerce, owned by Czech and Slovak investors, made a takeover offer that values the store group at €5.8bn (£5.2bn).

EP, which already held a stake of nearly 11 per cent in Metro, made the takeover offer late on Friday, with Metro's biggest shareholder – investment firm Haniel – already agreeing to sell its 15.2 per cent stake in the business.

EP exercised a call option yesterday to buy another 5.4 per cent stake in Metro from consumer electronics retailer Ceconomy, with the closing of the deal to happen in the next few days.

EP Global Commerce first bought a 3.6 per cent stake in Metro from Ceconomy last September.

Metro said on Sunday that the unsolicited offer substantially undervalued it, noting that the offer price was only three per cent above the closing share price on Friday.

Metro shares rose 2.57 per cent overall during the day to close at €15.94, with the day's high being €16.35.

The bidder argued the move offers "compelling value and a unique opportunity" for shareholders. *Reuters*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LONDON

THE PLANNING ACTS AND THE ORDERS AND REGULATIONS MADE THEREUNDER

This notice gives details of applications registered by the Department of The Built Environment

Code: FULL/FULMAJ/FULEIA/FULLR3 – Planning Permission; LBC – Listed Building Consent; TPO – Tree Preservation Order; OUTL – Outline Planning Permission

81 - 82 Gracechurch Street, London, EC3V 0AU
19/00493/LBC
New external name plaque (166cm x257cm)and external hanging sign (420cm x550cm).

Barbican Arts & Conference Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2Y 8DS
19/00566/LBC
Proposed painted timber enclosure to house and secure distro box (terminal for new 3 phase electrical supply) to Level 4 Conservatory Terrace.

1 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1BR
19/00583/FULL
Change of use at part first floor level (Room 101 from Class B1(office use) to a flexible use for either Class B1 or Class D1 use. (10 Sq.m)

The Three Tuns Public House, 36 Jewry Street, London, EC3N 2ET
19/00595/FULL
Retention of a serving bar on the flat roof area above second floor level.

9 Aldgate High Street, London, EC3N 1AH
19/00596/FULL
Application under S73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the removal of Condition 3 of planning permission 16/00742/FULL dated 24.11.2016 to enable unrestricted hours use of the roof terrace whilst the roof top bar is trading.
Condition Number(s): 3
Conditions(s) Removal:
Removal of condition 3 is sought to enable unrestricted use of the roof terrace whilst the bar is trading application seeks removal of the condition

404 Willoughby House, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8BN
19/00604/LBC
Widen WC door and replace with frosted glass sliding door.

Unit 13-14 (Basement & Ground Floor), Royal Exchange, Threadneedle Street, London, EC3V 3LQ
19/00605/FULL
4154 Replacement of the existing timber stallriser panels with extract grilles to the shopfront at Unit 14-15, in association with internal works to facilitate new basement UKPN intake room with internal ducting and connections.

Unit 13-14 (Basement & Ground Floor), Royal Exchange, Threadneedle Street, London, EC3V 3LQ
19/00606/LBC
Works to facilitate new basement UKPN intake room with associated internal ducting and connections including replacement extract grille at street level to the shopfront stallriser of Unit 14-15.

68 King William Street, London, EC4N 7HR
19/00607/FULL
(i) Change of use of lower ground floor from retail (Class A1) to leisure (Class D2), (ii) change of use of part ground floor from retail (Class A1) and office (Class B1) to restaurant (Class A3) and leisure (Class D2), (iii) change of use of first and third floors from retail (Class A1) to office (Class B1), (iv) associated ancillary facilities including plant, refuse storage, cycle storage and changing and shower facilities at basement level.

6 Middle Street, London, EC1A 7JA
19/00623/FULL
(i) Removal of existing fourth floor and rooftop plant enclosure and erection of a two-storey mansard roof at fourth and fifth floor levels for office use (Class B1); (ii) Change of use of part ground floor and part basement from wine bar (Class A4) to office (Class B1) (163sq.m); (iii) Alterations to the Middle Street and Newbury Street elevations including: (a) replacement of the existing shopfronts and entrances at ground floor level, (b) replacement of windows at first to third floor levels; (c) partial rebuild of the Newbury Street elevation at first to third floor levels; and (d) other associated works. (Total increase in floorspace: 75sq.m).

Applications can be viewed at www.planning2.cityoflondon.gov.uk or at the Department of the Built Environment, North Wing, Guildhall, Basinghall Street, London EC2, between 09.30 and 16.30. Representations must be made within 21 days of the date of this newspaper online or in writing to PLNComments@cityoflondon.gov.uk or the Chief Planning Officer, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ. In the event that an appeal against a decision of the Council proceeds by way of the expedited procedure, any representations made about the application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

CITY OF LONDON

CITY OF LONDON

Notice is hereby given that the Common Council of the City of London as traffic authority for the undermentioned streets will make several Orders on **4 July 2019** under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991with the exception of **London Wall** where dates have been extended. The effect of these Orders will be to prohibit vehicles (or pedestrians where stated) from entering the said roads.

London Wall (Junction Moorgate) ---- *Pit Lane (Banned Right Turn)*
Extended until 22 November 2019

Billiter St (junction with Leadenhall St) ---- *Carriageway Repair*
8am to 4pm Saturday 20 July 2019. Alternative route: Leadenhall St, Gracechurch St, Fenchurch St, Lime St & Fenchurch Avenue. Lime St between Fenchurch Avenue & Lime St Passage & Fenchurch Avenue between Lime St & Billiter St to be made temporary two way for access

Fenchurch Buildings (junction Fenchurch St) ---- *Utility Works*
8am 15 July to 6pm 25 August 2019. Alternative route: None

London Wall (Circus Pl to Wood St), **Moorgate** (South Pl to Lothbury, **Gt Swan Alley** (Moorgate Pl to Moorgate), **Kings Arms Yard** (junction Moorgate) ---- *Collaborative Carriageway Works*
7pm Friday 19 July to 6pm Sunday 21 July 2019. Alternative routes: As directed by signs

Old Fleet Lane (junction Farringdon St) ---- *Utility Works*
8am 20 July to 6pm 21 July 2019. Alternative route: None

Bread St (Watling St to Cheapside) ---- *Mobile Crane*
8am to 6pm each day from 13 to 14 July 2019. Alternative route: Cheapside, New Change, Cannon St, Queen Victoria St & Watling St; or Bread St, Cannon St, Queen Victoria St, Queen St & Cheapside

Enquiries to Traffic Management Services on 020 7332 1551

Carolyn Dwyer BEng (Hons), DMS, CMILT, FCIHT
Director of the Built Environment

Dated **25 June 2019**

CITY OF LONDON

De La Rue chair latest to depart banknotes firm

LOUIS ASHWORTH

@Louis_Ashworth

THE BOARDROOM exodus at banknote printer De La Rue has accelerated, with two members announcing retirement plans yesterday.

Chair Philip Rogerson and senior independent director Andy Stevens will both leave the firm, which recently lost the contract to print British passports, before the end of the year.

"The chairman has indicated his intention to retire from the board as part of an orderly succession process following the appointment and integration of the new chief executive," De La Rue said in a statement.

Chief executive officer Martin Sutherland was ousted from the ailing firm less than a month ago, after a profit warning sent shares to a 15-year low.

Rogerson will leave the company after a new chief is appointed and integrated, the company said.

De La Rue has come under pressure from shareholder Crystal Amber in the wake of the warning, with the activist investor branding its board "clueless" and describing its difficulties as "entirely self-inflicted".

In its warning last month, De La Rue revealed a drop in profit, which it pinned on increased competition and a £18.1m loss that arose after Venezuela's central bank was unable to pay it for note-printing services.

It had made two profit warnings during 2018.

The 198-year-old firm, which is the world's biggest designer and maker of banknotes, last year lost a contract worth £490m to print Britain's blue post-Brexit passports to a European competitor.

After being defeated by Franco-Dutch firm Gemalto, it sold off its passport-making arm for £42m to a Swiss firm.

It is also undertaking a restructuring programme, aimed at making savings of £20m a year, aimed at reducing cyclical pressures.

Although the date of Rogerson's departure has not been set, Stevens is expected to exit before the end of the year.

LE ROCKETMAN Sir Elton John awarded the Legion of Honour for fight against Aids

SIR ELTON John has been awarded the Legion of Honour by France for his career as a musician and his charity work. John (left) is pictured with the UK's ambassador to France Edward Llewellyn (centre) and French President Emmanuel Macron (right).

Switching energy supplier the 'new normal' even as rates slow

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

THE NUMBER of households changing their electricity supplier dropped in May, reaching its lowest monthly levels since February.

Nearly half a million customers switched supplier last month, a 1.4 per cent reduction year-on-year.

It follows a big surge in switches in the first few months of the year, as all of the Big Six suppliers hiked bills in April.

"Last month's figures might not be record-breaking but it is worth noting that half a million customer switches every month has become the 'new normal'," said Lawrence Slade, chief executive of Energy UK, which compiled the figures.

It comes as Citizens Advice today warned too many suppliers were failing on customer service. A quarter of the 40-odd companies on its twice-yearly league table could not even get 2.5 out of five stars.

SSE, one of the Big Six, came top of the rankings, with Nabuh Energy languishing at the bottom.

The consumer champion called for new rules for established suppliers.

Kazakh-focused oil firm Nostrum appoints Goldman as it mulls sale

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

SHARES in Nostrum Oil and Gas traded down yesterday as the company said it was exploring a potential sale.

The firm said it was directing takeover bids to Goldman Sachs, but has not had any interest from potential buyers before the announcement.

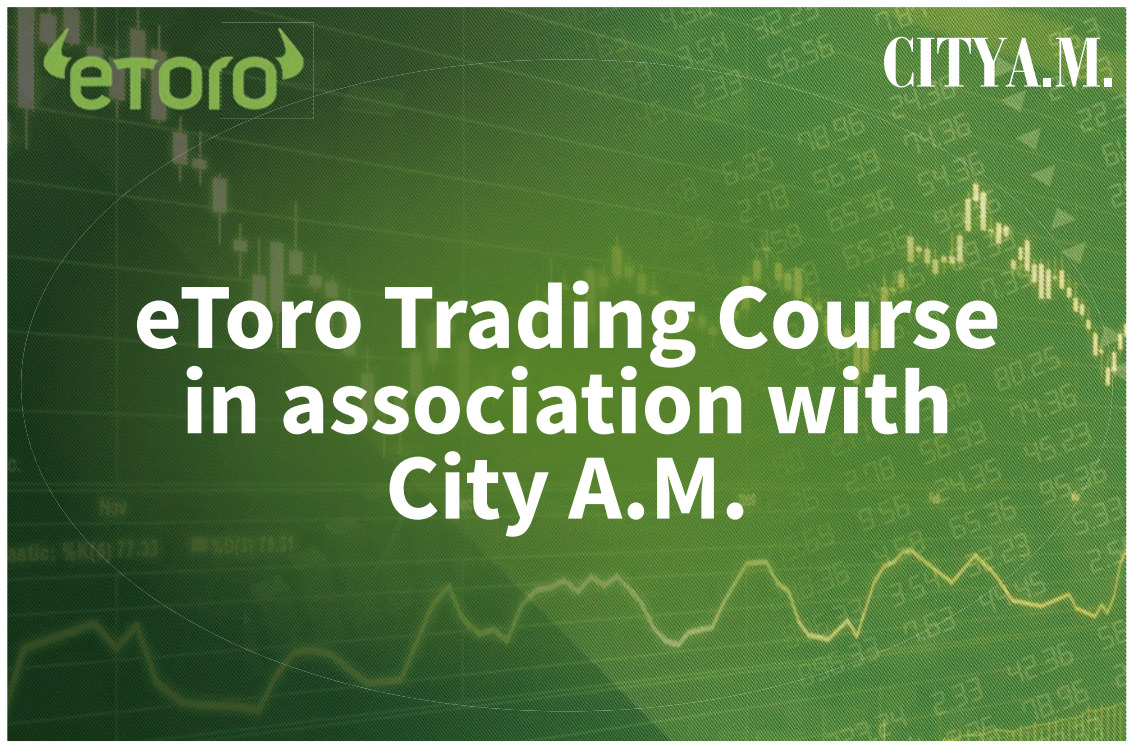
The Kazakhstan-focused business announced a strategic review, which could include a sale.

The company needs the financing for a range of growth options. It is looking at throughput agreements with other gas suppliers, acquisitions close to its current fields, and selling parts of its share in some fields to speed up development.

Shares in the company initially bounced 5.7 per cent yesterday, before giving back gains to close down by the same amount.

The company also said it had agreed a $500,000 (£393,000) deal to buy a 50 per cent stake in Positive Invest, which has the rights to several Kazakh fields.

The promising sites were "never developed due to a lack of infrastructure," said chief executive Kai-Uwe Kessel.



Fancy learning how to trade? Join multi-asset investment platform eToro for a free trading course on 1 July 2019.

Throughout the day you will explore trading essentials to help you cut through the noise, covering topics such as cyclicity and moving averages to leverage and margin.

The course is suitable for all levels – from beginners to more experienced investors and traders looking to refresh their knowledge – and it's completely FREE to sign-up.

How is the course structured?

The course is split up into four key learning areas:

- The currency market
- Types of trader - learn what type of trader YOU are
- Key terms - understand key terms with simple examples
- Trading - explore the essentials of currency trading

1 July 2019
Level39, One Canada Square,
Canary Wharf, London E14 5AB

Registration at 8:30am, 9am start. To conclude no later than 4pm. Refreshments will be provided on the day (lunch will not be provided).

The course will be led by Currencies & Indices Trader, Henry Ward, who boasts two decades of trading experience, risk management and market analysis.

Strictly RSVP - to register to attend
visit www.cityam.com/event/etoro-event

H2O cuts illiquid bond exposure to halt outflows

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

H2O, the UK-based asset management arm of Natixis, has sold some of its private bonds portfolio and cancelled entry fees to attract new investors to its funds.

The firm cut non-rated private bonds to below two per cent of assets under management after struggling with outflows.

In a statement yesterday the company said: "H2O has sold part of its non-rated private bonds and, based on a valuation received by international banks, marked down the balance in compliance with Ucits regulation, thereby cutting their aggregate market value below two per cent of H2O's assets under management."

The company added: "H2O's funds will be priced at a discount between three per cent and seven per cent. H2O has decided to remove all entry fees across all funds until further notice."

Last week Morningstar put one of H2O's funds under review.

The ratings agency cited concerns over investments in illiquid bonds issued by firms related to Lars Windhorst, who owns investment holding company Tennor.

Morningstar placed the €2.3bn (£2.1bn) global macro fund H2O Allegro "under review".

Morningstar also highlighted a potential conflict of interest as H2O chief executive Bruno Crastes was a board member of Tennor. The firm's chief investment officer Vincent Chailley has since replaced him on the board.

"While this sleeve is small in absolute terms and we do not believe it poses an immediate risk to the fund's performance, the concentration of these investments on a cohort of companies linked to the same individual is a cause for concern," said Morningstar analyst Mara Dobrescu.

"We also note that in May 2019, H2O's chief executive Bruno Crastes was named a member of the advisory board of Tennor Holding, Lars Windhorst's most recent holding company, which raises the appearance of a possible conflict of interest."

Shares in French investment bank Natixis tumbled following the analyst note yesterday.

Concerns over illiquid assets in open-ended funds have spiked following the suspension of Neil Woodford's Equity Income Fund. The flagship fund was frozen after a rush of investor redemption requests.

Facebook hired Clegg as its head of global affairs and communications last year

Nick Clegg denies Russia used Facebook to influence EU vote

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

FACEBOOK vice-president Sir Nick Clegg has insisted there was "absolutely no evidence" Russia used the social media platform to influence the UK's 2016 referendum on EU membership.

The former deputy prime minister said his firm had analysed its data and found no "significant attempt" by outside forces to influence the vote, arguing British politics had been more influenced by traditional media than social media.

"I'm afraid the roots to British Euroscepticism go very, very deep," he told the BBC.

Clegg also called for greater regulation of tech firms. He said there was a "pressing need" for new "rules of the road" to tackle issues such as privacy, election rules, personal data use and harmful material. But he argued that it should not be left to private companies to make important ethical decisions about how the internet serves society.

"I want to see companies like Facebook play an increasingly mature role, not shunning regulation but actually advocating it in a sensible way," he said.

Jetblue Airways sues Walmart over Jetblack

JONATHAN STEMPEL

JETBLUE Airways has sued Walmart for trademark infringement, in an effort to stop the world's largest retailer from using the name Jetblack for its text-based shopping service.

In a complaint filed on Friday night, Jetblue said Jetblack was a "transparent attempt" by Walmart to capitalise on the carrier's goodwill, and would likely cause "significant consumer confusion" as the service expands across the US.

Jetblue also said Walmart intended further infringements by using other "Jet+colour" names such as Jetgold and Jetsilver, and moving closer to Jetblue's core business by offering travel services, including dining and entertainment recommendations.

The complaint said Jetblue owns 43 federal trademark registrations for Jetblue marks dating as far back as 1999. Jetblue is now the sixth-largest US airline.

Walmart launched Jetblack in New York City in May 2018, as part of the Arkansas-based retailer's effort to compete with such e-commerce services as Amazon Prime.

"We respect the intellectual property rights of others," Walmart spokesman Randy Hargrove said. "We take this issue seriously, and once we are served with the complaint will respond appropriately with the court."

The lawsuit was filed in Manhattan federal court. Jet.com, which Walmart bought in 2016, is also a defendant. *Reuters*

LORD MAYOR'S CITY GIVING DAY 24 SEPT 2019
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY A.M.
@LMAPPEAL #CGD #GoRed #peoplematter

Supporting City Giving Day

Linklaters

Why are you supporting CGD?
As a long-standing supporter of City Giving Day, we understand that we have responsibility to contribute our expertise to tackle critical local and global challenges. Supporting social impact has always been part of the culture of the firm, and this annual event enables us to celebrate and showcase volunteering activities.

Which charities do you support?
Our community investment work applies professional skills from across our business to make a positive social impact. We support projects which help underrepresented groups in the workforce. Through education and employability programmes we aim to increase individual potential, promote equal access to opportunities and ultimately diversify representation in business and society. .

How will you celebrate CGD?
Our impact is more powerful in collaboration. This is the fifth consecutive year Linklaters, together with UBS and Societe Generale, are jointly supporting the charity ELBA to improve employability skills and help east Londoners get closer to, and into employment as part of the Hackney East project.

CHARITY IN ACTION

On City Giving Day volunteers from Linklaters, UBS and Societe Generale will share their business skills with Hackney-based charities who offer community services and support residents into jobs.

Hackney East highlights the benefits of partnership to support the local community. Employee volunteers share and develop expertise while beneficiaries increase their confidence, skills and networks.

Louise Muller, Programme Director, ELBA

JOIN US AND REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.THELORDMAYORSAPPEAL.ORG/CGD

Lloyds freezes 8,000 accounts in crackdown on money laundering

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

LLOYDS Banking Group has frozen about 8,000 bank accounts registered offshore after asking the customers for three years to prove their identities.

The banking giant, which has its international business in Jersey, was forced to take action in order to meet regulatory requirements.

Customers who have failed to respond to Lloyds' attempts to contact them over the past three years could find their accounts frozen, the group said.

The move was made following changes to Jersey's Money Laundering Order.

"In January 2016, we began to contact certain expatriate banking customers to ensure we were provided with up to date information, where customer information was missing," Lloyds said in a statement yesterday morning.

Lloyds' move follows changes to Jersey's money laundering rules

"This was required to meet international regulatory standards. Over the last three years we have made multiple attempts to contact these customers. Unfortunately, where a customer has not provided us with this information we have had to freeze their account until we get the information. This is also to protect the customer, as it prevents anybody else trying to use the account if the customer has stopped using it or has moved address."

River and Mercantile deputy takes over as boss

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

ASSET management and advisory group River and Mercantile has appointed deputy boss James Barham as chief executive.

Barham will replace current chief executive Mike Faulkner who will step down to become the group's head of macro strategies and innovation.

Faulkner was formerly chief executive of P-Solve until its 2014 merger with River and Mercantile Asset Management – the firm founded by Barham in 2006.

"It is a great honour to take on the chief executive mantle from Mike," said Barham.

"Aside from a long-term friendship, we have always been indistinguishably aligned in terms of our ambitions for River and Mercantile."

Barham held roles at Liontrust Asset Management and Intermediate Capital Group before leaving to set up River and Mercantile Asset Management.

GUEST OPINION

A post-Brexit Britain is open to all

We must listen to businesses on our post-Brexit immigration plan, says **Sajid Javid**

THE ABILITY to control immigration and secure our borders was an important part of why many people voted to leave the EU, and everyone would agree it needs to work in the best interests of the UK and our economy.

As home secretary, the son of immigrants and a former businessman, I know the vital contribution that migrants make to our country.

I've been touring the UK with the immigration minister, listening to businesses large and small about how to make the immigration system better for industry.

Last year, I announced ambitious plans for the biggest change to our immigration system in a generation. It favours skills and talent over nationality and makes it easier for businesses to hire talent from overseas.

It needs to be a system that is based on robust evidence and listens to the needs of all sectors of our economy.

This is why we've been engaging with businesses and employers across the UK to find out what this means for them. Since announcing our proposals, we've held over 100 events across the UK engaging 1,500 stakeholders. We've also set up five advisory groups to deepen engagement between government and industry.

It's clear from these roundtables and meetings that there are many views on salary threshold levels.

We always said we wanted a national conversation on salary thresholds before coming to a decision. That is why I've asked independent experts at the Migration Advisory Committee to look further at the salary threshold question.

They will consider the mechanism for calculating future salary thresholds, the levels at which they should be set, whether their conclusions are applicable to the whole of the UK or if there is a need for greater regional variation, and the impact of exemptions to the salary threshold such as for occupations in shortage or part-time workers.

We will consider all the evidence – from economists as well as business leaders and civil society – before finalising the thresholds.

More broadly, I'm confident this ambitious blueprint for a post-Brexit immigration system will be good news for British businesses.

These proposals allow business to hire talent from anywhere in the world through one single, skills-based system. This means that banks, hospitals and tech firms can access the talent and skills they need from all corners of the world.

The new system will also be faster and more streamlined for businesses. It will abolish the outdated requirement to advertise jobs in the UK for a month before hiring from overseas for highly skilled workers, and there will be far quicker processing times for work visas.

We are also widening the skills threshold to allow more people who will add value to our businesses and economy – anyone with the equivalent of A-levels will be able to apply.

To help organisations adjust to the new system, a transitional measure will establish a route allowing workers from some countries to come for a year and work, open to all skill levels, and with no requirement to be sponsored by an employer.

This bold new system will help build a Britain fit for the future and send a message to the world that we are open for business.

Sajid Javid is the UK home secretary

CITY DASHBOARD YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR BROKER VIEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

LONDON REPORT

FTSE 100 steady as supermarket shares decline

LONDON's main index edged up yesterday as gains in defensive stocks such as healthcare were balanced by pressure on Asia-focused banks, with China-US trade talks again set to take centre stage at this week's G20 summit.

The FTSE 100 eked out a 0.1 per cent gain, outperforming the broader European index, which fell on poor German economic data, and as a profit warning from Mercedes-Benz owner **Daimler** triggered a sell-off in the region's carmakers.

The mid-cap FTSE 250 shed 0.1 per cent, driven in part by a weak sterling, with traders seemingly reluctant to bet on the currency until the Conservative Party's leadership contest concludes.

Investors will be watching the outcome of US President Donald Trump's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, which could influence the course of the protracted trade war that has unsettled the global economy.

HSBC and **Standard Chartered** were among the biggest drags on the main index, offsetting advances in healthcare firms **Astrazeneca** and **Glaxosmithkline** – considered among safer bets in uncertain times.

Admiral was among the biggest gainers on the FTSE 100, adding 3.7 per cent, after Barclays upgraded the insurer's rating by two notches.

Shares of retailers and supermarket chains slipped, however, after a forecast showed consumer spending in Britain this year would grow at its slowest rate in six years.

Sainsbury's shed four per cent, **Kingfisher** and

Admiral was among the big gainers on the FTSE 100, rising 3.7 per cent

Marks & Spencer lost about 2.7 per cent, and **Tesco** dropped 2.3 per cent.

On the mid-cap index, Yorkshire-headquartered power producer **Drax** lost 5.2 per cent as Citigroup cut its price target on the stock and said it saw no reason to turn more constructive given the current commodity price outlook.

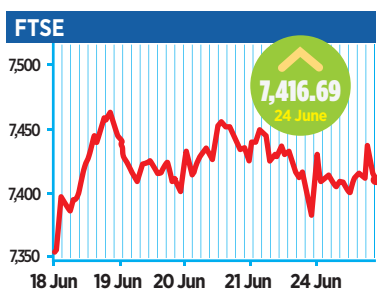
Dixons Carphone fell 3.25 per cent as last week's disappointing annual results prompted further rating downgrades of Britain's biggest seller of electricals and mobile phones.

TOP RISERS

1. **Micro Focus** Up 3.75 per cent
2. **Admiral** Up 3.74 per cent
3. **Halma** Up 3.14 per cent

TOP FALLERS

1. **Sainsbury's** Down 4.01 cent
2. **BT** Down 3.25 per cent
3. **Flutter Ent.** Down 2.97 per cent



BEST OF THE BROKERS

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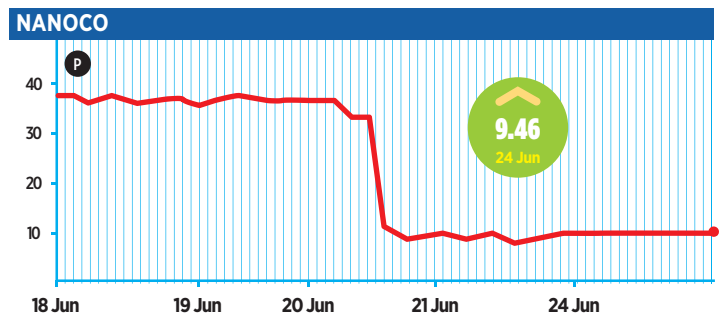
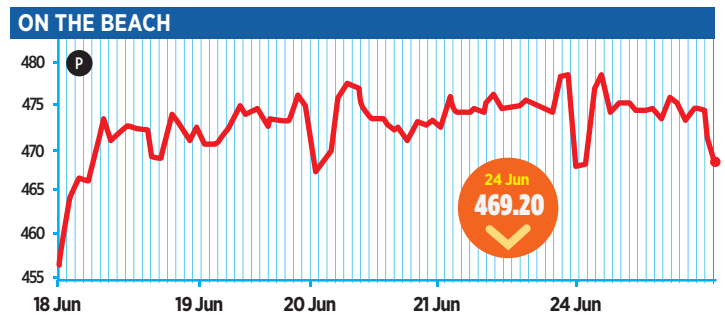
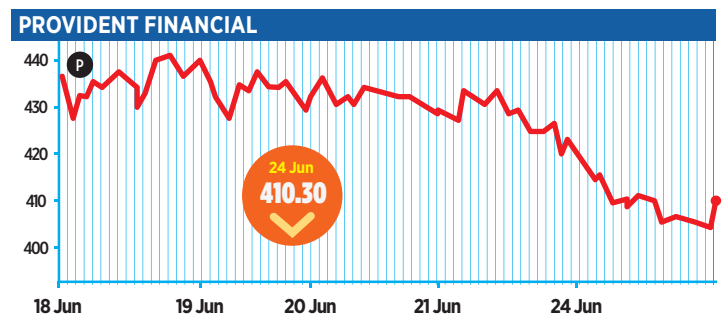


Losing your iPhone is one of the worst feelings. Presumably, losing your £17m contract to supply tech for iPhones is even worse. The company has been left feeling worse for wear after the loss of a major US customer (read: Apple), sending its shares surging downwards on Friday, before they ticked up again slightly yesterday. "Clearly," say Peel Hunt analysts, "this is a major blow to the company's prospects given that this was expected to move towards commercialisation in the short term." They rate "under review"at a target price of 36p.



On the Beach's outlook is still looking sunny to many investors in the City. In a recent interview Peel Hunt analysts asked the chief executive and his colleagues about progress, and having reiterated their "Buy" rating, they seem convinced by their answers. "Visiting the new Tech HQ in Manchester helped us to see more clearly that On the Beach's platform can support more brands and revenue, and that is just what management is planning for it to do," the broker said, as it issued a 550p target price.



Divine providence, most strongly associated with Augustine of Hippo, is the theological term for God's intervention in the universe. Provident Financial's bosses probably yearn for some kind of intervention as they try to shake off the aftermath of Non-Standard Finance's attempted takeover. Analysts at Jefferies say the attempt "has absorbed considerable board and senior management time", but, on the plus side, "the board's strategy has been subjected to rigorous examination and has passed". They give it a "hold" rating, at a target price of 430p.

NEW YORK REPORT

Health stock losses offset tech gains

WALL Street's main indexes were flat yesterday, as losses in healthcare stocks offset gains in the technology sector, while investors awaited the high-stakes meeting between US and Chinese leaders at this week's G20 summit.

Optimism over a revival in trade talks between the two largest economies and hopes that the Federal Reserve would cut interest rates to battle the impact of a trade war on economic growth helped push the S&P 500 index to a record high on Friday.

The benchmark index is up 7.2 per cent so far in June and is on track to recoup its losses from the previous month.

Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping are expected to meet at the G20 summit in Japan. Signs of a de-escalation in trade tensions could boost investor sentiment.

The trade-sensitive industrial sector edged 0.18 per cent higher. But the biggest boost to the markets came from the technology sector, which rose 0.43 per cent.

Countering gains, the healthcare sector dropped 0.41 per cent, weighed down by a five per cent decline in shares of **Celgene** and a seven per cent fall in those of **Bristol-Myers Squibb**. Bristol-Myers said its planned $74bn (£58.10bn) deal to buy drugmaker Celgene was expected to close at the end of 2019 or beginning 2020, compared with its earlier expectations of closing the deal in the third quarter.

The energy sector dropped 0.73 per cent – the most among the 11 major S&P sectors – as oil prices fell one per cent on demand concerns and signs of easing tensions between the US and Iran.

Shares of casino operator **Caesars Entertainment** jumped 15.7 per cent after rival **Eldorado Resorts** said it had agreed to buy the company for $8.5bn (£6.67bn). Shares of Eldorado fell 11.4 per cent.

United Technologies gained 1.4 per cent after Cowen & Co upgraded the building and aerospace supplier to "outperform" from "market perform".

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

CQS

CQS has announced that Mina Gerowin has been appointed as an independent non-executive director. In her role she will support CQS in the development of its business strategy, working alongside the chair, wider board and executive management team. Mina has more than 30 years' experience in financial services. She is presently a director of 100 Women in Finance and on the advisory board of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). Formerly, she was a director of Exor, CNH Industrial, Lafarge and a member of the global advisory committee of Samsung Asset Management. In 2005, Mina joined Paulson & Co, leading the firm's European event, credit and active investments.

JUST EAT

Just Eat has announced the appointment of Jambu Palaniappan to the board as non-executive director. Jambu is executive-in-residence at Atomico, the international technology investment firm, and was previously head of Ubereats for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), leading the business from its creation to have a presence in more than 70 cities across the region. Prior to Ubereats, Jambu was regional general manager for the Middle East & Africa at Uber, where he oversaw market strategy and operations, as well as working with expansion teams to manage entry into new markets. Just Eat chair Mike Evans said: "I am delighted to announce J ambu's appointment to the board as non-executive director. He brings significant expertise in the online food delivery industry, both in terms of technology and customer service, while his experience in market expansion ensures he will add considerable value."

WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS

Watson Farley & Williams is delighted to announce that real-estate expert Petar Orlic has joined the firm's London office as a partner. He was previously a partner at Reed Smith in the same city. Petar has a broad practice with a primary focus on corporate/commercial, finance, development and management-related real estate transactions, both in the UK and continental Europe. His client base includes institutional investors, international and domestic banks and a wide variety of other commercial real-estate investors. Petar also has considerable experience advising offshore investors and lenders in relation to high-end residential acquisitions. WFW global real-estate sector head Felicity Jones said: "Petar is an excellent addition to our real-estate practice, one of the firm's core industry sectors, both in London and internationally."

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FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7416.69	19299.68	4047.95	26727.54	8005.70	2945.35
▲ 9.19	▼ 24.92	▲ 2.83	▲ 8.41	▼ 26.01	▼ 5.11

£/€	1.1171	▼ 0.0030	€/$	1.1397	▲ 0.0029
£/$	1.2734	▼ 0.0004	€/£	0.8949	▲ 0.0024
£/¥	136.61	▼ 0.0973	€/¥	122.30	▲ 0.3003

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 3.750 19	100.62	-0.02	103.7	100.6
Tsy 2.000 20	101.43	-0.05	102.7	101.4
Tsy 4.750 20	102.85	-0.05	106.9	102.8
Tsy 3.750 20	103.71	-0.07	106.7	103.7
Tsy 2.500 20	356.17	-0.03	361.4	355.8
Tsy 8.000 21	114.50	-0.11	121.2	114.1
Tsy 4.000 22	109.31	-0.13	111.7	109.0
Tsy 0.500 22	99.90	-0.12	100.0	97.7
Tsy 1.875 22	116.90	-0.22	118.5	115.5
Tsy 2.250 23	107.00	-0.16	107.2	104.7
Tsy 2.500 24	370.41	-0.18	370.8	358.7
Tsy 0.125 24	114.07	-0.29	114.8	110.9
Tsy 5.000 25	124.57	-0.22	125.5	122.1
Tsy 4.250 27	129.11	-0.33	129.3	122.6
Tsy 1.250 27	136.29	-0.48	137.4	128.4
Tsy 6.000 28	147.60	-0.34	147.8	140.5
Tsy 0.125 29	128.50	-0.55	129.7	118.8
Tsy 4.750 30	141.77	-0.40	142.0	132.1
Tsy 4.125 30	383.81	-0.51	386.2	355.2
Tsy 4.250 32	138.98	-0.39	139.3	128.5
Tsy 1.250 32	157.61	-0.64	159.1	144.1
Tsy 0.125 36	149.93	-0.79	151.5	133.4
Tsy 4.250 36	145.90	-0.41	146.3	133.1
Tsy 4.750 38	159.68	-0.45	160.3	144.9
Tsy 0.625 40	170.69	-0.89	173.5	152.8
Tsy 4.500 42	162.52	-0.49	163.4	145.9
Tsy 3.500 45	144.54	-0.54	145.4	128.0
Tsy 4.250 46	164.12	-0.54	165.1	145.7
Tsy 4.025 49	170.40	-0.57	171.6	150.0
Tsy 0.500 50	200.91	-1.13	207.7	173.7
Tsy 0.250 52	197.48	-1.11	204.9	168.8

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	485.6	0.0	676.4	443.9
Cobham	105.4	1.2	131.7	96.8
Meggitt	525.0	5.0	572.0	458.0
QinetiQ Group	291.0	-1.4	312.4	256.6
Rolls-Royce Holdi	887.0	5.0	1094.0	759.2
Senior	225.0	-1.0	334.4	185.4
Ultra Electronics	1612.0	6.0	1743.0	1232.0

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bank of Georgia G	1539.0	-65.0	1927.2	1310.0
Barclays	148.5	-0.2	194.0	146.1
Close Brothers Gr	1417.0	0.0	1660.0	1374.0
CYBG	192.2	-0.4	364.2	173.9
HSBC Holdings	645.8	-3.8	731.4	600.8
Lloyds Banking Gr	57.0	-1.1	66.6	50.0
Metro Bank	504.0	-20.5	3422.0	475.0
Royal Bank of Sco	215.2	-0.5	270.4	203.0
Standard Chartere	694.6	-8.2	711.2	519.8
TBC Bank Group	1664.0	-32.0	1774.0	1290.0

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (A.G.)	917.0	1.0	975.0	666.0
Britvic	894.0	6.5	956.0	745.0
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2986.0	15.0	2993.0	2244.0
Diageo	3431.5	51.5	3434.5	2523.5

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda Internation	5345.0	-30.0	5447.7	4576.0
Elementis	141.4	-2.7	263.8	136.3
Johnson Matthey	3190.0	8.0	3760.0	2620.0
Sirius Minerals	14.1	0.6	38.5	13.5
Synthomer	374.2	-2.0	575.5	347.4
Victrex plc	2184.0	-20.0	3408.0	1950.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	241.6	-3.8	296.5	223.4
CRH	2522.0	-32.0	2741.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	626.5	-14.0	1104.0	512.0
Ibstock	246.4	-1.8	299.2	193.1
Marshalls	690.0	8.0	693.5	401.0
Polypipe Group	439.2	2.2	445.8	307.8

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	177.0	1.0	250.0	150.1
Drax Group	275.2	-16.8	427.2	273.8
SSE	1109.5	-2.0	1400.0	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQ.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	2071.0	63.0	2076.0	1237.0
Morgan Advanced M	269.0	2.0	363.0	237.0
Renishaw	4104.0	182.0	5650.0	3670.0
Spectris	2799.0	15.0	2813.0	1966.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUM.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aberforth Smaller	1230.0	-12.0	1410.0	1120.0
Alliance Trust	792.0	-1.0	798.0	672.0
Apax Global Alpha	146.5	0.0	153.0	127.0
AVI Global Trust	749.0	-4.0	767.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford J	797.0	0.0	869.0	663.0
Bankers Inv Trust	934.0	-3.0	939.0	766.0
BBGI SICAV S.A. (	152.5	-0.5	168.0	134.0
BlackRock Smaller	1454.0	10.0	1600.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smalle	1352.0	2.0	1495.0	1220.0
Caledonia Investm	3090.0	5.0	3100.0	2650.0
City of London In	422.0	1.0	436.0	376.0
Edinburgh Inv Tru	574.0	-5.0	699.0	569.0
F&C Investment Tr	696.0	-4.0	741.0	616.0
Fidelity China Sp	224.0	0.0	250.0	182.4
Fidelity European	250.0	-0.5	250.9	202.0
Fidelity Special	259.5	-1.5	278.0	220.0
Finsbury Growth &	906.0	4.0	911.0	740.0
GCP Infrastructur	127.2	-0.6	130.8	119.0
Genesis Emerging	746.0	-2.0	760.0	615.0
Greencoat UK Wind	140.0	0.2	143.2	122.8
HarbourVest Globa	1616.0	10.0	1628.0	1266.0
Herald Investment	1338.0	-8.0	1368.0	1055.0
HGCapital Trust	216.0	0.0	219.0	175.0
HICL Infrastructu	161.4	-1.0	170.1	143.0
International Pub	151.6	-1.0	163.4	141.4
JPMorgan American	460.5	-5.0	472.0	386.5
JPMorgan Emerging	990.0	2.0	997.0	759.0
JPMorgan Indian I	759.0	3.0	776.0	566.0
JPMorgan Japanese	439.0	-2.0	472.0	367.0
Jupiter European	867.0	-8.0	895.0	666.0
Law Debenture Cor	592.0	6.0	636.0	534.0
Mercantile Invest	201.5	0.5	221.9	168.0
Monks Inv Trust	914.0	0.0	915.0	710.0
Murray Internatio	1146.0	-4.0	1208.0	1056.0
NB Global Floatin	89.2	-0.1	94.2	87.6
NextEnergy Solar	118.5	-1.0	124.5	107.5
Pantheon Internat	2120.0	-20.0	2225.0	1955.0
Perpetual Income	306.0	0.0	365.5	301.5
Pershing Square H	1374.0	8.0	1398.0	990.0
Personal Assets T	42350.0	300.0	42400.0	38900.0
Polar Capital Tec	1322.0	-10.0	1386.0	1066.0
RIT Capital Partn	2085.0	-5.0	2130.0	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	850.0	-3.0	1282.0	840.0
Schroder Asia Pac	453.0	-1.5	465.0	379.0
Scottish Inv Trus	824.0	2.0	902.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	533.5	0.0	568.3	441.4
Sequoia Economic	110.0	-0.2	114.2	106.0
Smithson Investme	1236.0	-6.0	1242.0	1000.2
Syncona Limited N	229.5	-2.0	302.5	227.0
Temple Bar Inv Tr	1246.0	6.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Emergin	778.0	1.0	792.0	649.0
The Renewables In	127.2	0.0	128.4	106.9
TR Property Inv T	416.5	-2.5	433.5	353.5
Vietnam Enterpris	447.0	2.0	472.0	390.0
VinaCapital Vietn	341.0	1.0	350.0	306.0
Witan Inv Trust	212.0	-1.0	227.6	189.6
Woodford Patient	58.0	1.5	91.0	53.8
Worldwide Healthc	2705.0	-10.0	2915.0	2325.0

FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1063.0	0.0	1088.5	756.2
3i Infrastructure	292.0	1.5	292.5	221.0
AJ Bell	387.0	0.0	477.0	220.0
Allied Minds	73.6	-1.8	110.0	37.3
Amigo Holdings	226.0	-5.5	310.0	154.5
Arrow Global Grou	227.0	-11.2	267.0	167.2
ASA International	353.0	-11.0	510.0	336.0
Ashmore Group	495.8	1.8	497.6	337.0
Brewin Dolphin Ho	304.2	1.2	366.0	295.4
Charter Court Fin	309.5	-3.0	375.0	228.8
City of London In	405.0	-12.0	430.0	360.0
CMC Markets	92.0	0.8	206.0	77.4
Coats Group	80.3	-0.9	91.3	69.8
Georgia Capital	1066.0	-44.0	1260.0	941.0
Hargreaves Lansdo	1891.5	-11.5	2433.0	1633.0
IG Group Holdings	578.4	-3.4	954.5	474.8
IntegraFin Holdin	380.1	3.1	406.1	269.0
Intermediate Capi	1366.0	1.0	1391.0	899.0
International Per	160.0	4.2	248.8	153.6
Investec	501.0	-4.8	568.0	423.4
IP Group	74.0	0.7	138.0	71.4
John Laing Group	385.2	8.0	402.0	264.2
JTC	350.0	-12.0	440.0	287.0
Jupiter Fund Mana	412.0	-4.8	456.4	287.6
Liontrust Asset M	706.0	6.0	736.0	532.0
LMS Capital	52.8	0.8	53.5	44.0
London Finance &	38.5	0.0	45.5	38.5
London Stock Exch	5588.0	88.0	5588.0	3867.0
Man Group	149.1	-0.9	187.2	126.8
OneSavings Bank	378.6	0.0	449.6	330.0
Paragon Banking G	438.0	-2.4	524.0	379.2
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	582.8	10.8	2040.0	495.0
Provident Financi	410.3	-5.0	692.6	404.0
Quilter	137.8	-2.8	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2205.0	5.0	2652.0	2085.0
Real Estate Credi	169.5	0.0	175.5	163.0
Record	34.3	0.4	47.0	27.3
River and Mercant	275.0	-4.0	330.0	212.0
S&U	2400.0	80.0	2605.0	1767.5
Sanne Group	715.0	14.0	724.0	450.0
Schroders	3063.0	-11.0	3268.0	2334.0
Standard Life Abe	287.9	-2.5	393.1	224.9
TP ICAP	294.2	-2.5	422.4	259.7
Walker Crips Grou	27.0	0.0	39.0	24.0
XPS Pensions Grou	157.0	-6.0	192.0	132.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Group	194.8	-6.6	264.7	193.8
TalkTalk Telecom	109.5	-0.9	137.0	96.6
Telecom Plus	1434.0	-42.0	1528.0	1010.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	2298.0	62.0	2310.4	942.0
Morrison (Wm) Sup	199.0	-1.3	269.4	195.3
Ocado Group	1152.5	4.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury (J)	188.0	-7.9	341.5	185.9
SSP Group	683.0	13.0	744.4	615.1
Tesco	231.3	-5.4	266.2	189.6
UDG Healthcare Pu	756.5	-10.5	851.0	551.0

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Associated Britis	2419.0	-22.0	2836.0	2041.0
Bakkavor Group	117.2	0.4	193.0	113.0
Cranswick	2546.0	20.0	3454.0	2460.0
Greencore Group	217.1	-0.2	230.0	162.9
Hilton Food Group	933.0	-21.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	748.2	2.0	800.4	622.6
Unilever	4951.5	43.0	4983.5	3931.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1746.0	-13.0	2236.0	1584.0

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Centrica	88.6	-0.5	163.7	87.2
National Grid	845.9	-1.2	889.2	748.7
Pennon Group	766.2	4.4	812.4	684.2
Severn Trent	2095.0	15.0	2111.0	1770.0
United Utilities	806.2	5.2	873.6	682.4

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
RPC Group	791.8	0.2	834.8	632.2
Smith (DS)	345.8	-7.6	513.4	292.2
Smiths Group	1530.5	16.5	1749.5	1279.5
Smurfit Kappa Gro	2326.0	-4.0	3292.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	538.5	0.5	662.0	473.2

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Auto Trader Group	560.8	-1.4	606.0	388.5
B&M European Valu	315.0	-8.2	426.3	278.6
Card Factory	175.5	-1.5	212.4	162.6
Dixons Carphone	107.6	-3.3	199.9	102.5
Dunelm Group	969.0	-10.0	987.5	482.8
Inchcape	613.5	-1.0	799.0	486.6
JD Sports Fashion	590.0	6.4	635.6	318.5
Just Eat	617.8	-10.8	883.4	533.8
Kingfisher	202.2	-5.6	318.1	201.8
Marks & Spencer G	204.2	-5.6	300.8	204.2
Next	5546.0	-88.0	6136.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Grou	186.9	2.8	187.9	110.0
Sports Direct Int	276.6	-5.8	436.1	233.2
Ted Baker	835.0	11.5	2378.0	807.0
Vivo Energy	131.0	0.4	156.3	96.0
WH Smith	1934.0	-8.0	2186.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMETN & S.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	63.2	-0.2	64.5	52.4
Convatec Group	142.0	-0.1	239.0	118.6
Mediclinic Intern	294.1	-10.4	544.4	293.9
NMC Health	2418.0	-20.0	4120.0	2192.0
Smith & Nephew	1725.0	11.0	1728.0	1258.0

HHOLD GDS & HOME CONSTR.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Developme	563.4	0.8	625.8	434.0
Bellway	2710.0	-13.0	3226.0	2419.0
Berkeley Group Ho	3575.0	8.0	3981.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Group	1017.0	-3.0	1177.0	828.0
Countryside Prope	292.2	-1.6	353.2	270.0
Crest Nicholson H	347.8	-8.6	404.8	296.4
McCarthy & Stone	135.0	-2.6	142.4	97.5
Persimmon	1937.5	-9.5	2576.0	1859.5
Reckitt Benckiser	6349.0	140.0	7155.0	5593.0
Redrow	543.0	-1.0	674.6	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	156.1	-1.0	192.3	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	813.0	-6.5	1055.0	676.0
Hill & Smith Hold	1189.0	-11.0	1523.0	902.5
IMI	1007.5	1.5	1242.0	870.0
Melrose Industrie	176.5	0.8	233.9	146.3
RHI Magnesita N.V	4688.0	104.0	5085.0	3318.0
Rotork	311.9	0.9	361.4	235.7
Spirax-Sarco Engi	9230.0	120.0	9275.0	5900.0
Weir Group	1479.5	-33.0	2020.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS & MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	639.0	3.0	709.4	442.1
Ferrexpo	264.0	-0.5	301.3	143.5

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	271.8	3.6	350.0	207.0
Clarkson	2470.0	15.0	2900.0	1878.0
Fisher (James) &	1888.0	22.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	206.3	-0.4	506.0	194.5

MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers	%	Fallers	%
Entertainment One 396.8	5.1	Drax Group 275.2	-5.8
Renishaw 4104.0	4.6	PPHE Hotel Group L 1780.0	-5.3
PZ Cussons 222.0	4.5	Bank of Georgia Gr 1539.0	-4.1
Sirius Minerals 14.1	4.3	Sainsbury (J) 188.0	-4.0
Micro Focus Intern 2077.0	3.8	Metro Bank 504.0	-3.9
Admiral Group 2191.0	3.7	Network Internatio 565.0	-3.6
PayPoint 1064.0	3.3	Mediclinic Interna 294.1	-3.4
Halma 2071.0	3.1	BT Group 194.8	-3.3
Games Workshop Gro 4934.0	2.9	Tullow Oil 208.4	-3.0
Greggs 2298.0	2.8	Flutter Entertainm 5690.0	-3.0

NON LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Group	2191.0	79.0	2281.0	1870.0
Beazley	552.5	4.5	599.0	492.6
Direct Line Insur	329.6	6.1	366.5	304.9
Hastings Group Ho	182.4	3.2	274.2	174.0
Hiscox Limited (D	1708.0	-4.0	1723.0	1418.0
Lancashire Holdin	694.0	4.0	724.5	530.0
RSA Insurance Gro	569.6	-2.0	681.8	496.6
Sabre Insurance G	261.5	0.5	294.0	249.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	413.5	-3.5	514.8	364.6
Legal & General G	268.0	1.6	291.2	223.7
Phoenix Group Hol	686.0	-1.5	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1684.0	-14.0	1824.0	1340.0
St James's Place	1086.5	-12.0	1216.5	914.0

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4Imprint Group	2690.0	20.0	2700.0	1715.0
Ascential	366.6	1.2	465.0	337.2
Bloomsbury Publis	236.0	8.0	243.0	190.5
Centaur Media	44.1	0.1	56.5	34.7
Entertainment One	396.8	19.4	483.4	336.4
Euromoney Institu	1280.0	-2.0	1434.0	1132.0
Future	1018.0	-2.0	1248.0	375.0
Goco Group	90.0	-0.6	135.4	64.6
Haynes Publishing	226.0	0.0	238.0	160.0
Huntsworth	100.0	0.0	139.0	81.0
Informa	815.8	6.8	859.0	605.8
ITE Group	72.6	1.9	90.0	56.3
ITV	106.9	-0.6	180.4	105.2
Moneysupermarket	399.2	-6.8	406.9	264.0
Pearson	822.8	6.8	1027.5	769.2
Reach	75.0	0.0	83.2	54.6
Relx plc	1947.5	25.5	1959.0	1491.5
Rightmove	567.0	-1.7	585.1	420.9
STV Group	350.0	0.0	458.0	318.0
Tarsus Group	427.0	-11.0	438.0	243.0
WPP	968.6	-3.8	1301.0	800.4

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Acacia Mining	182.3	0.0	256.6	96.1
Anglo American	2179.0	20.0	2226.0	1464.6
Antofagasta	894.0	-1.8	1028.5	727.2
BHP Group	1975.6	10.6	1976.7	1490.6
Centamin (DI)	112.3	0.2	136.2	79.8
Fresnillo	888.4	5.2	1173.0	724.8
Glencore	278.3	-2.0	387.2	254.7
Hochschild Mining	186.1	-1.1	208.4	149.1
Kaz Minerals	581.2	-3.6	861.4	436.7
Polymetal Interna	959.0	15.6	960.8	597.2
Rio Tinto	4751.0	61.5	4877.5	3486.0

MOBILE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	542.4	-2.4	632.2	362.8
Vodafone Group	126.2	-0.7	191.0	123.3

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	550.3	-5.9	598.3	485.9
Cairn Energy	163.5	-0.7	258.8	140.0
Energean Oil & Ga	830.0	-15.0	857.0	494.5
Premier Oil	74.5	-2.0	143.6	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell	2586.5	2.5	2694.5	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell	2598.5	3.5	2780.5	2227.0
Tullow Oil	208.4	-6.4	266.3	165.2

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	525.5	-9.0	849.0	453.6
Petrofac Ltd.	433.5	-8.8	663.4	381.5
Wood Group (John)	419.9	-3.7	796.4	389.9

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Group	1804.5	21.5	2325.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	222.0	9.5	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	6438.0	60.0	6525.0	5182.0
BTG	834.0	1.0	853.0	475.0
Dechra Pharmaceut	2816.0	44.0	3168.0	2014.0
Genus	2618.0	34.0	2992.0	2098.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1593.0	16.6	1621.6	1418.0
Hikma Pharmaceuti	1733.5	42.5	2025.0	1416.0
BMO Commercial Pr	112.0	0.0	155.0	110.8

REAL ESTATE INVEST. & SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Capital & Countie	211.0	-3.0	294.2	209.5
CLS Holdings	217.5	5.5	255.0	195.4
Daejan Holdings	5500.0	80.0	6400.0	5420.0
Grainger	249.0	-0.2	282.9	205.8
NewRiver REIT	182.0	-5.0	281.5	181.0
Safestore Holding	624.0	5.0	658.5	499.4
Savills	889.0	4.0	949.5	678.5
St. Modwen Proper	436.5	2.5	445.5	365.0
UK Commercial Pro	86.9	-0.7	92.7	81.0
Big Yellow Group	1006.0	10.0	1062.0	852.5

REAL ESTATE INVEST. TRUSTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British Land Comp	535.6	-4.4	687.6	523.0
Derwent London	3112.0	-40.0	3328.0	2761.0
Great Portland Es	699.8	1.4	773.6	652.3
Hammerson	272.9	-5.7	547.6	266.9
Intu Properties	75.5	-0.4	201.5	74.5
Land Securities G	819.6	-13.0	960.0	791.8
LondonMetric Prop	201.2	-0.4	209.2	172.7
Primary Health Pr	134.0	1.6	139.0	106.4
SEGRO	740.8	-2.0	744.2	585.2
Shaftesbury	816.0	-2.5	936.5	812.5
Tritax Big Box Re	153.4	-0.6	155.7	129.0
Unite Group	976.5	9.5	976.5	797.5
Workspace Group	890.0	4.0	1127.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	306.8	5.0	319.4	208.2
Aveva Group	3864.0	38.0	3956.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1303.0	14.0	1620.0	952.0
FDM Group (Holdin	940.0	20.0	1026.0	734.0
Funding Circle Ho	236.0	-5.0	440.0	221.5
Kainos Group	656.0	-20.0	677.5	340.0
Micro Focus Inter	2077.0	75.0	2491.6	1427.2
Playtech	402.9	-3.9	773.2	361.8
Sage Group	797.4	7.4	798.6	525.6
Softcat	951.0	12.0	967.0	565.0
Sophos Group	382.2	8.4	639.0	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	801.6	4.6	882.0	641.8
Ashtead Group	2223.0	58.0	2438.0	1586.5
BCA Marketplace	234.4	-3.6	242.0	178.5
Bunzl	2146.0	44.0	2551.0	2059.0
Capita	104.2	-2.4	169.1	99.9
DCC	7088.0	-2.0	7390.0	5555.0
Diploma	1601.0	2.0	1634.0	1150.0
Electrocomponents	618.2	-3.2	761.6	480.0
Equiniti Group	217.0	-2.2	266.0	186.2
Essentra	422.4	-3.0	507.0	325.4
Experian	2463.0	49.0	2463.0	1728.5
Ferguson	5706.0	24.0	6556.0	4749.0
G4S	209.5	-1.8	282.0	175.9
Grafton Group Uni	836.0	-1.5	937.0	630.0
Hays	162.6	-2.7	212.0	135.7
Homeserve	1199.0	3.0	1263.0	849.0
Howden Joinery Gr	505.0	2.4	539.0	416.4
Intertek Group	5632.0	68.0	6014.0	4387.0
Network Internati	565.0	-21.0	602.0	500.0
Pagegroup	532.0	-1.0	623.5	432.2
PayPoint	1064.0	34.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	401.4	7.2	402.8	284.8
Games Workshop Gr	4934.0	140.0	5085.0	2800.0
Serco Group	139.3	0.3	139.9	84.1
SIG	132.0	-1.7	153.0	102.2
Travis Perkins	1299.0	4.0	1465.0	970.0

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British American	2782.0	-15.0	4222.5	2375.0
Imperial Brands	1852.8	-17.2	2987.5	1846.8

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3442.0	-43.0	5000.0	3354.0
Cineworld Group	254.4	-0.2	323.6	249.0
Compass Group	1887.5	37.5	1912.0	1483.0
Domino's Pizza Gr	268.8	-0.4	357.7	224.4
EI Group	198.6	0.5	224.8	145.0
FirstGroup	98.5	-0.2	116.6	79.3
Flutter Entertain	5690.0	-174.0	8510.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Group	1943.0	32.0	2080.0	1388.0
Greene King	584.6	-3.6	704.4	472.8
GVC Holdings	620.6	-9.4	1170.0	507.5
InterContinental	5223.0	91.0	5281.0	3958.4
International Con	452.0	-8.8	726.6	443.0
Marston's	114.7	0.9	115.5	89.9
Merlin Entertainm	390.7	-1.2	410.5	307.1
Millennium & Copt	680.0	-5.0	685.0	436.0
Mitchells & Butle	287.5	6.0	291.4	238.0
National Express	402.4	8.2	433.2	361.4
PPHE Hotel Group	1780.0	-100.0	1990.0	1390.0
Rank Group	157.0	-3.0	194.0	135.0
Restaurant Group	123.0	-0.2	221.9	111.9
Stagecoach Group	125.9	-0.2	177.0	115.5
TUI AG Reg Shs (D	727.2	-1.4	1732.0	698.0
Wetherspoon (J.D.	1432.0	-13.0	1450.0	1066.0
Whitbread	4490.0	-20.0	5114.0	3883.0
William Hill	145.2	0.0	306.0	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3428.0	-27.0	3797.0	2329.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1435.0	-2.0	1539.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	299.0	-1.0	370.0	260.0
Alliance Pharma	70.5	-0.4	99.8	60.0
ASOS	2843.0	-107.0	6558.0	2128.0
Blue Prism Group	1378.0	-96.0	2575.0	1040.0
Camellia	10300.0	0.0	12000.0	9100.0
CareTech Holding	364.0	4.0	406.0	325.0
Central Asia Meta	219.0	-1.0	266.5	203.0
Clinigen Group	1012.0	-2.0	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	650.5	12.5	1163.0	395.0
Dart Group	836.0	-4.5	1017.0	740.0
Diversified Gas &	112.5	-1.0	134.0	96.0
Draper Esprit	514.0	-2.0	645.0	458.0
Eland Oil & Gas	125.2	0.2	137.5	97.0
EMIS Group	1212.0	4.0	1228.0	860.0
Fevertree Drinks	2301.0	-3.0	3956.0	2131.0
First Derivatives	3380.0	0.0	4680.0	2050.0
Frontier Developm	1070.0	16.0	1500.0	740.0
Gamma Communicati	1115.0	-5.0	1195.0	688.0
GB Group	515.0	-6.0	631.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1090.0	-10.0	1880.0	954.0
Hurricane Energy	54.5	-1.6	60.8	39.0
Impax Asset Manag	274.0	-11.0	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	324.5	-15.5	475.0	308.0
IQE	55.6	1.8	112.5	48.0
James Halstead	516.0	-6.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service G	151.0	-2.8	168.4	113.6
Keywords Studios	1670.0	-4.0	2065.0	900.0
Learning Technolo	91.6	0.6	166.5	62.2
M&C Saatchi	373.0	7.0	394.0	270.0
M. P. Evans Group	660.0	-16.0	800.0	637.0
Majestic Wine	266.0	-4.0	485.0	219.0
Midwich Group	590.0	6.0	685.0	491.5
Mortgage Advice B	594.0	-4.0	720.0	490.0
Next Fifteen Comm	614.0	14.0	644.0	455.0
Nichols	1770.0	-30.0	1840.0	1240.0
Numis Corporation	263.5	-1.5	438.5	221.5
Polar Capital Hol	600.0	18.0	732.0	448.0
Purplebricks Grou	98.6	-0.4	337.0	90.0
Redde	99.0	-5.2	196.0	90.0
Renew Holdings	420.0	-5.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	626.0	-2.0	652.0	407.5
Scapa Group	199.0	-6.0	473.4	157.0
Secure Income Rei	404.0	1.0	414.0	371.0
Serica Energy	136.0	1.6	142.0	57.4
Smart Metering Sy	516.5	-0.5	778.0	480.0
Telford Homes	315.5	4.5	430.0	267.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	319.0	-1.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	205.5	-3.0	232.5	192.2
Young & Co's Brew	1790.0	40.0	1885.0	1322.5
Young & Co's Brew	1065.0	-25.0	1325.0	1030.0

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EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AB INBEV	79.39	-0.40	91.14	56.32
ADIDAS N	265.65	-3.25	273.50	178.30
AIR LIQUIDE	121.95	-0.40	123.90	101.85
AIRBUS BR	123.26	0.48	126.50	77.50
ALLIANZ	212.70	0.85	216.20	170.38
AMADEUS IT GRP BR-A	68.34	-1.24	82.20	58.06
ASML HLDG	177.68	-1.02	189.50	130.12
AXA	23.30	0.05	23.90	18.40
BANCO SANTANDER	3.98	-0.02	4.82	3.80
BASF N	62.09	-0.40	84.80	57.26
BAYER N	55.50	0.65	99.61	52.00
BBVA	4.92	-0.00	6.44	4.48
BMW	63.55	-0.88	86.71	61.31
BNP PARIBAS BR-A	40.76	-0.29	56.94	38.14
CRH PLC	0.00	0.00	34.87	26.53
DAIMLER N	47.82	-1.67	59.99	44.54
DANONE	75.20	0.40	75.24	59.72
DEUTSCHE POST N	28.29	-0.22	32.20	23.43
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM N	15.39	0.01	15.88	13.09
ENEL N	6.23	-0.01	6.34	4.22
ENGIE	13.44	-0.07	14.28	11.31
ENI N	14.52	-0.08	16.71	13.39
ESSILORLUXOTT	110.40	-0.80	129.55	95.50
FRESENIUS	47.51	-0.53	71.00	38.50
IBERDROLA	8.94	-0.01	9.13	5.81
INDITEX	25.49	0.02	30.30	21.85
ING GROUP	9.79	-0.07	13.28	9.09
INTESA SANPAOLO N	1.87	-0.00	2.66	1.80
KERING	518.00	1.80	539.80	351.70
KON AH DEL BR	20.33	-0.65	24.01	18.60
L'OREAL	255.40	0.10	257.30	182.00
LINDE	178.65	-0.60	0.00	0.00
LVMH	371.25	2.95	373.95	242.30
MUENCHENER RUECKV N	225.00	-0.10	226.40	175.00
NOKIA	4.42	-0.11	5.76	4.17
ORANGE	13.92	-0.01	15.25	13.15
ROY.PHILIPS	37.76	-0.29	40.01	29.05
SAFRAN	131.45	-0.40	133.95	97.08
SANOFI	77.12	-0.56	80.44	67.74
SAP I	118.80	0.82	119.36	84.02
SCHNEIDER EL	78.28	-0.62	79.50	57.54
SIEMENS N	105.78	0.36	121.40	90.90
SOCIETE GENERALE	21.57	-0.49	35.06	20.81
TELEFONICA	7.26	-0.01	8.06	6.59
TOTAL	49.00	-0.12	55.39	44.23
UNILEVER CERT	54.39	0.22	55.33	45.12
VINCI	91.70	0.66	93.26	69.98
VIVENDI	24.94	0.21	26.69	20.40
VOLKSWAGEN VZ I	146.96	0.00	163.70	131.02

COMMODITIES

Gold	1397.15	17.65
Silver	15.29	-0.04
Brent Crude	61.82	-0.32
Krugerrand	1355.05	-13.65
Palladium	1492.00	-32.00
Platinum	805.00	-10.00
Tin Cash Official	19375.00	-250.00
Lead Cash Official	1916.00	6.00
Zinc Cash Official	2607.50	-65.50
Copper Cash Official	5962.00	-21.00
Aluminium Cash Official	1777.00	-34.00
Nickel Cash Official	12240.00	-105.00
Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1160.00	11.00
Cocoa Futures	2527.00	44.00
Coffee 'C' Futures	103.75	3.10
Feed Wheat Futures	154.00	6.00
Soybeans Futures Continuation Contract	909.00	5.80

CREDIT & RATES

BoE IR Overnight	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 7 days	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 1 month	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 3 months	0.750	0.00
BoE IR 6 months	0.750	0.00
LIBOR Euro - overnight	-0.477	0.00
LIBOR Euro - 12 months	-0.281	0.00
LIBOR USD - overnight	2.348	0.00
LIBOR USD - 12 months	2.202	0.00
Halifax mortgage rate	3.990	0.00
Euro Base Rate	0.000	0.00
Finance house base rate	1.000	0.00
US Fed funds	2.36	0.00
US long bond yield	2.55	-0.04
Euro Euribor	-0.400	0.00
The vix index	15.26	-0.14
The baltic dry index	1239.00	45.00
Markit iBoxx EUR	242.32	0.43
Markit iBoxx GBP	344.39	1.26
Markit iBoxx USD	254.28	-0.91

WORLD INDICES

	Price	Chg	%chg
FTSE 100	7416.69	9.19	0.12
FTSE 250	19299.68	-24.92	-0.13
FTSE All-Share	4047.95	2.83	0.07
FTSE AIM All-Share	929.51	-3.56	-0.38
S&P 500	2945.35	-5.11	-0.17
Dow Jones I.A.	26727.54	8.41	0.03
Nasdaq Composite	8005.70	-26.01	-0.32
Xetra DAX	12274.57	-65.35	-0.53
CAC 40	5521.71	-6.62	-0.12
Swiss Market Index	9898.85	-23.98	-0.24
ISEQ Overall Index	6068.66	-64.54	-1.05
FTSEurofirst 300	1511.74	-3.81	-0.25
Hang Seng	28513.00	39.29	0.14
Shanghai Composite	3008.15	6.17	0.21
STI Index	3309.85	-7.32	-0.22
ASX All Ordinaries	6745.50	11.20	0.17

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	173.38	0.03	219.75	159.32
ABBOTT LABORATOR	84.71	-0.29	85.36	60.32
ADOBE	299.87	0.54	304.00	204.95
ALPHAB NON VTG-C	1115.52	-6.36	1289.27	970.11
ALPHABET-A	1116.70	-8.67	1296.98	977.66
AMAZON.COM	1913.90	2.60	2050.50	1307.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	124.14	-0.59	126.40	89.05
APPLE	198.58	-0.20	233.47	142.00
AT&T	32.58	0.13	34.30	26.80
BANK OF AMERICA	27.98	-0.14	31.91	22.66
BERKSHIRE HATH RG-B	206.85	0.64	224.07	184.75
BOEING CO.	373.99	2.15	446.01	292.47
CATERPILLAR	134.37	0.48	159.37	112.06
CHEVRON	124.91	-0.02	128.55	100.22
CISCO SYSTEMS	57.18	0.15	58.15	40.25
CITIGROUP	67.41	-0.56	75.24	48.42
COCA-COLA CO	51.92	0.37	52.20	42.99
COMCAST-A	43.60	0.04	43.96	32.08
DOW	49.58	1.22	0.00	0.00
EXXON MOBIL	76.95	-0.74	87.36	64.65
FACEBOOK-A	192.60	1.46	218.62	123.02
GOLDMAN SACHS GR	197.49	1.55	245.08	151.70
HOME DEPOT	205.50	-3.89	215.43	158.09
HONEYWELL INTL	174.61	0.30	177.36	123.48
IBM	139.35	0.15	154.36	105.94
INTEL	47.63	0.17	59.59	42.36
JOHNSON & JOHNSO	143.06	0.97	148.99	120.11
JPMORGAN CHASE	108.66	-0.78	119.24	91.11
MASTERCARD RG-A	265.30	0.83	269.85	171.89
MCDONALD'S	203.92	-0.34	206.39	153.13
MEDTRONIC	99.16	-0.22	100.15	81.66
MERCK	85.51	0.94	86.50	59.80
MICROSOFT	137.78	0.81	138.40	93.96
NETFLIX	371.04	1.83	423.21	231.23
NIKE -B-	84.50	-1.25	90.00	66.53
ORACLE	56.74	0.62	57.47	42.40
PAYPAL HOLDINGS	116.50	0.29	119.95	74.66
PEPSICO	118.61	0.56	119.74	101.06
PEPSICO	134.14	0.18	135.24	104.53
PFIZER	43.76	0.09	46.47	36.00
PROCTER&GAMBLE	112.33	1.13	112.50	77.18
TRAVELERS COS	152.02	0.54	153.20	111.08
TWITTER	35.58	0.56	46.90	26.19
UNITEDHEALTH GRO	249.64	-2.64	287.94	208.07
UTD TECHS	130.18	1.43	144.40	100.48
VERIZON COMM	58.27	0.50	61.58	49.01
VISA RG-A	173.85	0.41	174.81	121.60
WALGREENS BOOTS	51.95	-0.50	86.31	49.31
WALMART	111.24	0.11	112.22	83.40
WALT DISNEY	139.22	-1.01	143.51	100.35
WELLS FARGO	46.27	-0.62	59.53	43.02

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

Reinvigorated UK-India ties offer a wealth of opportunity

Chandrajit Banerjee

INDIA and the UK have more than 200 years of shared history characterised by democratic traditions, connected cultural institutions, and the English language. This history is a strong foundation on which our bilateral trade and investment relations are continually nurtured and reinforced.

Our investments in each other's economies have grown over the years, and there is great potential for collaboration and excitement about the opportunities ahead.

Today, the UK and India are among the largest investors in each other's economies. Britain stands as the fifth largest inward investor in India, ranking second among the G20 countries, and accounting for nearly six per cent of all inward investment into India between April 2000 and March 2019.

From the UK side, Indian companies make a huge contribution to the British economy. According to the 2019 edition of the CII Grant Thornton India Meets Britain Tracker, there are now a record 844 Indian companies operating in Britain, with combined revenues of over £48bn. Together, they paid almost £687m in corporation tax and employed 107,422 people.

Looking ahead, Indian businesses are optimistic about the UK's economic future, which is reflected in the growing investment from Indian companies in the UK, particularly in the fast-growing tech and IT services sectors.

Indian companies are helping UK companies grow and compete, boosting productivity, providing jobs, and offering skills development. Indian business is clear that Brexit will not change this deep and special partnership.

The UK has relatively low corporate tax rates, offers ease and speed of setting up a business, ensures a stable political and security environment, and promotes a strong R&D ecosystem. These benefits will all persist, irrespective of the Brexit negotiations or any changes in the government.

However, there is always more that can be done to fully embrace the opportunities of this relationship and build even greater bilateral collaboration.

Take trade, for example, especially in services. The UK is the world's second largest exporter of services and India has the world's second fastest growing services sector, with a compound annual growth rate of nine per cent. There is huge potential to increase bilateral trade in this area.

In terms of specifics, a good place to start would be the financial and legal services sector.

The Indian and UK governments have jointly identified the importance of the expansion of banking, accountancy, insurance and legal services in India, to both support the country's economic growth, and facilitate competitive international trade.

London, as the world's financial capital, is critically placed to help India raise the capital it needs to continue its impressive economic and infrastructural growth, and UK businesses have the expertise and ambition to meet the rising demand for financial services in India.

There are now a record 844 Indian companies operating in Britain, with combined revenues of over £48bn

Nor is it just about large established firms. With SMEs making an increasing contribution to the national GDP and trade basket of both India and the UK, the two countries should step up the bilateral SME trade and collaborations, particularly with regard to technology sharing and financing of business.

Next, manufacturing. The Indian government has recently taken key steps to usher in transparent, accountable and efficient processes for attracting FDI in sectors like defence, automotive and pharmaceuticals manufacturing. This offers a range of compelling opportunities to British firms looking to invest in India's manufacturing sector.

India and the UK also see great scope in undertaking joint research and development projects in cutting-edge fields such as advanced engineering. The bilateral industrial R&D programme could be further expanded to areas beyond energy and healthcare.

Finally, there are a multitude of technology-driven areas where India and the UK could collaborate and put themselves at the forefront of the evolving fourth industrial revolution.

Tie-ups between India's advanced manufacturing sector and the UK's High Value Manufacturing Catapult programme could be enhanced to develop technology and skills, particularly focused on advanced materials and manufacturing.

Today more than ever before, both the UK and India stand at a crossroads. This could be a pivotal moment – together, our countries can help redefine the contours of the partnership.

And Indian industry stands ready to support the growth and progress of this relationship.

Chandrajit Banerjee is the director general of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The CII Annual CEOs Delegation to the UK is taking place this week.

Heathrow expansion is taking off – now let's inject some competition into aviation

Morgan Schondelmeier

A PLANE lands or takes off from Heathrow every 23 seconds; 80m passengers pass through its gates each year. It is an airport running at full capacity – and has been for years. Now at last, with the parliamentary approval of a new runway and the release of competing development plans, Heathrow expansion is back on the menu, boys.

One of the contenders to be the next Prime Minister, Jeremy Hunt, is a firm backer of Heathrow expansion. Boris Johnson, in contrast, literally skipped town to avoid voting one way or another when it went before parliament.

But now is the time for both Boris and Hunt to step forward and embrace the opportunities that expanding Heathrow offers the British people. Because Heathrow is an amazing chance not only to increase capacity, but to inject some competition into our aviation industry – and it's one the future Prime Minister should grab with both hands.

Beyond the massive infrastructure project required to build the runway, decisions will need to be made regarding how the associated new terminal will be designed, built, and operated.

Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL) currently holds a dominant market position, and while it competes with other European hubs for through-traffic and with other London airports, its wide variety of routes and airlines make it the natural choice for millions of travellers. It notably uses its position to charge airlines among the highest rates of any airport in the world.

The UK aviation market lacks normal competition mechanisms, which means that HAL can rest on its laurels with little incentive to lower costs or increase efficiencies. But the new terminal is an ideal opportunity to change that.

Today's Adam Smith Institute (ASI) report, Ready for Takeoff: Building competition in the aviation industry, outlines policy proposals which could lead to cheaper, more efficient construction and operation of Heathrow's new terminal, providing better services to millions of travellers.

The ASI is calling for the government to carefully consider the potential for terminal competition: a separately built, owned and operated terminal at Heathrow, as is the case at JFK in New York City.

Terminal competition would prevent HAL from excessively building up its costs that it then passes onto airlines and passengers in higher fares. A separate terminal owner and operator for airlines to choose would put pressure to keep costs low and be responsive to consumers.

Further, the ASI is calling for a rethink of the historical, incumbent supporting system of landing and takeoff slot allocations at the airport. As it stands IAG, the owner of British Airways, has more than half the slots at Heathrow. This prevents airlines from building the scale necessary to challenge BA.

We are suggesting that the 356 new daily slot pairs associated with the expansion are auctioned off. This could increase passenger numbers by 16m and raise billions in revenue to help fund the project.

The Heathrow expansion is an ideal opportunity for our politicians to prove they are pro-competition and keen to keep Britain at the forefront of international travel.

It's time for them to gather their belongings, form an orderly queue, and get on board.

Morgan Schondelmeier is head of development at the Adam Smith Institute.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

T-level headed

Recruitment remains a priority concern for businesses across the capital, with our research at the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) showing the scale of the challenge over the first half of this year. Out of those businesses that tried to recruit, over 60 per cent struggled with recruitment challenges. Yet the number of firms looking to hire new staff increased in both quarters of 2019 to date.

Addressing technical skills gaps in key sectors that power the UK economy is vital, including manufacturing, construction and education. T-levels (the vocational equivalent of A-levels) are an opportunity to address those gaps and deliver a much-needed boost to Londoners' employability.

Yet when polled by LCCI and ComRes, two thirds of London businesses' decision-makers said that they would not be willing to offer paid or unpaid placements, or work, to a T-Level student or graduate.

This reaffirms the consistent message we've been hearing from our members; businesses lack sufficient awareness of T-levels, and therefore an understanding of the potential that they present both to employers and the capital's future workforce.

We cannot afford to waste this chance, and should learn from the challenging implementation of the apprenticeship levy. Ahead of their introduction next year, the government must maximise this window of opportunity to clearly communicate the benefits that T-levels will bring to both businesses and those studying them.

Sean McKee, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

BEST OF TWITTER

"Which, if any, of the following people do you think would be the best prime minister?"
18% ~ Jeremy Corbyn
17% ~ Theresa May
57% ~ None of these
8% ~ Don't Know
Via Opinium, 19-20 June
This is the 1st time that JC has been ahead on the "best PM" question in an Opinium poll.
@LeftieStats

The good news, comrades, is that Jeremy has inched ahead of a woman forced to resign her post on the grounds she was utterly incapable of doing the job. The revolution advances one victory at a time.
@alexmassie

Listening to Nick Clegg answer for the dystopian world of Facebook – from live-streaming massacres to enabling suicides. Zuckerberg hired a former deputy PM so he could "understand Europe." His proposed remedy? An oversight committee. Pull the other one.
@tom_watson

We should be wary of big companies seeking regulation. Often can be a way of protecting their market position and repelling new entrants.
@trussliz

Listening to @BBCr4today, a thought strikes: From tuition fees to Facebook, Nick Clegg has always been less a politician and more a salaried apologist
@chakrabortty

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS E: theforum@cityam.com **COMMENT AT:** cityam.com/forum : @cityam

The 'special relationship' is still worth celebrating – and defending

Robert Colvile

TO UNDERSTAND how close the relationship between Britain and America really is, consider a conversation that took place in December 2003, between the heads of the US National Security Agency (NSA) and the UK's GCHQ.

There was intelligence, the US intelligence chief said, to suggest that al-Qaeda was planning a nuclear attack. So if there was a "catastrophic loss" at NSA headquarters, its systems would be placed under GCHQ's control.

Partly, this was about logistics. The NSA's backup site wasn't yet ready, whereas GCHQ could handle the load. But it was also an awesome statement of trust. The head of the most sophisticated intelligence network ever created was willing to place control of it in the hands of another country. What other alliance in history has ever been that close?

Because of America's status as the global superpower, it is easy to overlook how unusual the Anglo-American relationship really is. Yes, we fixate on US politics – but doesn't everyone? Yes, we devour its popular culture – but surely that's not unique?

But it goes so much deeper than that. America is the largest single destination for Britain's exports – taking more than twice as many as Germany, in second place. In turn, we import more from America than any other country bar Germany.

Britain is, by a distance, the largest single investor in the US. Britain's companies invest more in the US than anywhere else. And American firms are the biggest investors here.

That's before you consider those security ties – the fact that the UK and US militaries and intelligence networks are intertwined to a historically unprecedented extent. Or the philosophical bonds – the fact that there is such a thing as "Anglo-Saxon capitalism", a shared commitment towards liberal economics and liberal thinking.

Yet while the ties between Britain and America have never been closer, they have rarely been more vulnerable.

For many in Britain – particularly on the left – America is more foe than friend. They criticise its foreign policy, resent its military supremacy, despise its President. They argue that a post-Brexit free trade deal – one of the most basic ways in which two countries can make each other richer – will lead to unhealthy chicken on our plates and the selling-off of the NHS.

Leaving aside that millions of people in the US appear to have been eating chlorinated chicken perfectly happily and safely for decades, this scepticism towards America is decidedly ill-founded.

America has its problems. But it is also more prosperous and more productive than Britain – by a long chalk. As Margaret Thatcher said: "No other nation has been created so swiftly and successfully. No other nation has been built upon an idea – the idea of liberty." Many of the best ideas in our politics were imported from the US, not least that entrepreneurship was and is something to be championed.

Many of the best ideas in our politics were imported from the US

Today, at the Guildhall in central London, the Centre for Policy Studies – the think tank I run – will be holding its annual Margaret Thatcher Conference, in honour of our co-founder. Each year, we pick a different theme. And this year we have chosen "Britain and America" – because alongside our relationship with the EU, it is still the most important that Britain has.

We're excited to be joined by an extraordinary range of speakers: the US ambassador, Liam Fox, Anne Applebaum, Judy Shelton (rumoured to be one of Trump's picks for the Federal Reserve), and many others.

Perhaps the highlight will be an "in conversation" session between George Osborne and Professor Niall Ferguson, who has flown over from California for the occasion.

For both the US and UK, these are turbulent times. But we still believe that Britain and America are better countries when they have confidence in themselves, in their values – and in each other.

Robert Colvile is director of the Centre for Policy Studies. For more details of the Margaret Thatcher Conference on Britain and America, or to buy tickets, visit cps.org.uk.

DEBATE

Will character matter more than policy detail in the Tory leadership contest?

YES

ALEX DEANE

Our members aren't going to cast their votes based on policy minutiae. Plainly, whether or not you think that they should, they'll be voting on character.

When I say "character", I don't mean it in the pearl-clutching, Mary Whitehouse sense. We are electing a new political leader, not a new parish priest. Indeed, an unparalleled paragon of moral virtue was the outcome of the leadership selection process last time, and look how that turned out.

Rather, I mean "character" in two senses: grit, and personality. We need someone with the grit to get through whatever our innately left-of-centre and Remainy media class throws at them, and the personality to punch through the general lack of interest in politics and seize the collective public imagination.

If you're reading this paper, you're more interested than the average person. We need a politico who can reach those interested less than the average. And of course, that's Boris .

Alex Deane is a Conservative commentator.

NO

JOHN OXLEY

The new Prime Minister will inherit a ticking deadline and difficult parliamentary arithmetic on Brexit. He will also inherit a party in flux – lacking a clear narrative to move beyond the cuts of the Cameron era and the outcome of the referendum.

Some may hope that a big personality will cover this, but the glare of government tends to expose those who don't do their homework.

To govern Britain and to boost the party's popularity, the new Prime Minister needs policies. Those policies must be sensible, well-funded, and popular. Without a clear platform, the new leader could easily drift into the dustbin of daft ideas, trying to unite a party around porn blocks and the national spare room database.

The membership should look carefully at what the candidates propose. We need answers on how to square the Brexit circle, but also how to seize upon the opportunities it can present. Charisma can take you a long way, but detailed proposals are how you make Britain better.

John Oxley is an expert in law, history, and Conservative politics.

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CRYPTO A.M.

Our series on AI, Blockchain, Cryptoassets, DLT and Tokenisation

PARTNER CONTENT

CITY A.M.'S CRYPTO INSIDER

JAMES BOWATER

Tonight in London, at the famous American steakhouse Smith & Wollensky, I will be hosting the Crypto AM Keynote, Panel & Networking Event with Keynote Speakers Naeem Aslam, Chief Market Analyst of ThinkMarkets and Daniel Doll-Steinberg, Co-Founder of the Atari Token. On the panel will be representatives of Nodal Labs, CDAX, Craft Coin Company and Wirex. There are a few places left and it's free to attend but by application only. Please email me your interest at CryptoInsider@cityam.com

The Summer Solstice was celebrated in style with an explosion of positivity in the Crypto markets. I looked back at previous editions of Crypto AM (www.cityam.com/crypto-insider) and noted that since I started publishing my price watch six months ago that Bitcoin (BTC) has risen from US$3,275.97 to its current US$10,809.20, Ethereum (ETH) from US$83.81 to its current US$306.99 and the crypto market cap has more than triple sized to US$325.51bn!

Since last week's Crypto AM, BTC has been testing, breaching, falling back and punching through the $11,000 resistance mark and, at the time of writing, is trading at US$10,809.20. ETH is at US$306.99; Ripple (XRP) is at US$0.4611; Binance (BNB) is at US$36.87 and Cardano (ADA) is at US$0.09640. Overall Market Cap is US325.52bn (data source: www.CryptoCompare.com)

It is impossible to ignore the biggest news of last week which is that Facebook officially revealed Libra and Calibra. As mentioned above, the markets have been very buoyant and many observers put it down in part to the Libra Effect. I don't propose to address the impact that Libra is having as I have invited a number very bright people to share their thoughts in this very '

Libra dominated edition of Crypto AM. What I will say though is that even if Libra is not a true cryptocurrency it doesn't matter, because what this announcement has already done is ignite furious debate and highlighted how broken the legacy banking system in serving the unbanked. So I for one very much welcome this addition to the fold.

I'm very pleased to be taking part in an exclusive event called 'Tokenise It!' supported by everiToken, Crypto AM, KuCoin Exchange, SMC Capital and Obsidian Capital (Crypto AM contributor Arnie Hill is the CEO). I will be taking part in a fireside chat with some special guests.

In the run up I've had the pleasure of meeting Brady Luo the Co-Founder & CEO of everiToken, a project that is achieving that holiest of grails: speed. Measured in Transfers Per Second (TPS) the network runs at 10,000TPS which compares to EOS at 4,000 and Ethereum at 25. If you'd like to join me on Friday, 28th June at 1 Wimpole Street please register at bit.ly/tokenlondon Doors open at 17:30 - see you there!

LIBRA: WEIGHING THE CONSEQUENCES FOR REGULATORS

Designed by Phill Snelling, Bowater Media

Historically, financial regulators of any hue have divided their roles to reflect their markets and constituents. Central bankers examine currencies and the systemic stability of the financial system; securities and banking regulators focus on wholesale markets; financial conduct regulators pay attention to consumer finance. As markets globalise, the regulators should in theory collaborate across nations and economic blocks. That has always been financial regulation 101.

This leads to an ambivalent attitude towards cryptocurrencies. Consumer-oriented regulators understandably fret about frauds and criminal usage, as part of their remit to ensure that consumers are protected. Meanwhile, central bankers are dismissive because, to date, cryptocurrencies are minuscule relative to established fiat currencies.

However, what happens when the behemoths of the social media world launch their own currencies? Suddenly, size matters. Perhaps it is unkind to class these social media currencies as cryptocurrencies, given their clearly delineated purpose. However, they have the potential to develop into an extremely popular payment medium, that sits outside established financial markets. So, what's a regulator to do?

The first thing is not to panic, as there are established regulatory frameworks for payment systems and services - such as the EU Payment Services Directive and US Money Transmitters Licence regime - that regulators can adapt to a closed loop payment system. Many regulators can also designate financial systems "systemically important," and subject them to direct oversight. Of course, the global nature of a social media currency will require collaboration and harmonisation across various regulatory regimes. Whilst this may be challenging, it is not impossible.

For the central bankers, however, a different problem exists. Although some, such as Mark Carney, have been calling for a more coordinated approach to cryptocurrencies, the general approach is that they are not "real money" and therefore not significant enough to warrant intervention. With the possibility of a social media currency being developed on a scale to parallel the conventional currency system, the questions are whether the central banks should seek to bring social media currencies within their bailiwicks and, if so, how? The prospect of regulating a social media platform as a credit institution is daunting and it is questionable whether it could be done without the cooperation of the platform itself. However, the cloak of acceptance and respectability may prove to be sufficient incentive, encouraging user confidence in the currency.

Calm, collaboration and cooperation may facilitate the induction of social media currencies into the financial system, however whilst the ostensible purpose of social media currencies may be the facilitation of payments, there are ulterior uses – prime amongst which is the harvesting of data. Social media platforms already acquire and manipulate personal data; the addition of personal financial data takes the offering to another level. In a conventional banking environment, data on spending habits is inevitably incomplete. Customers have irritating habits such as taking cash out of ATMs, effecting payments using a com-

Crypto A.M. shines its Spotlight on ME Group

The ME Group is a LegalTech provider of dispute analysis and quantification, litigation funding, insurance and legal representation for consumers facing complex legal problems. The Group's CEO, Rob Cooper, together with his co-founders John Coxhead and Craig Cornick, have just returned from the 9th Global Family Office Investment Summit in Monaco where they spoke about the Group's journey of rapid growth to become a market leader in its sector.

The ME Group mission is to improve the quality and reduce the cost of dispute resolution for all parties through the use of LegalTech. Speaking at the summit Rob Cooper explained some of the many challenges faced by those involved in a dispute.

"Equality of Arms is part of the right to a fair trial, a right embedded in the European Convention on Human Rights. However for many people involved in a dispute there often feels like there is a significant imbalance in the power of the parties.

With significant changes to the legal industry, including the removal of most legal aid for civil cases, those who are financially vulnerable stand little chance of affording legal representation and other legal costs

For large disputes, often involving businesses or high-net worth individuals, litigation funding can bring greater balance between the parties by facilitating access to legal representation that would otherwise not be available. However litigation funding is often cost prohibitive in smaller disputes, because the litigation funder has to pass on the cost of undertaking their due diligence on the likelihood of the dispute succeeding."

> "Our use of AI across the Group plays a significant part in unlocking new opportunities

Rob Cooper, Chief Executive Officer, ME Group

This is where ME Group's proprietary LegalTech is revolutionising the legal services industry for the benefit of all stakeholders. Operating in specific dispute areas, the Group uses its LegalTech to appraise the expected outcome of a dispute and the level of damages that should be awarded. That appraisal is undertaken in minutes and the Group is able to support large volumes of disputes. Not only does this mean that the cost of dispute resolution is reduced for all parties, it also means it happens quicker, and that the Group's litigation funding and insurance offerings can be opened up to markets and dispute types that would not otherwise be accessible.

Talking about the Group's future growth plans Cooper commented:

"Our use of AI across the Group plays a significant part in unlocking new opportunities both in the UK and abroad. As we develop our LegalTech into more dispute areas we are able to identify more people that we can give access to justice. That in turn enables us to safely deploy more capital in both litigation funding and insurance.

As we look to the future the tokenisation of investor opportunities in our sector is something we're taking a close look at. A high-yield asset that is uncorrelated to normal economic cycles is likely to be an attractive proposition, and our LegalTech would ensure such tokens are underpinned by high-quality assets that are effectively managed through to realisation."

More information can be found at www.megroupholdings.co.uk

E: CryptoInsider@cityam.com @CityAm_Crypto In association with CryptoCompare

bination of credit and debit cards, running multiple accounts, and buying and selling things to others who bank elsewhere. The prospect of having a data harvesting business that not only sees the payment flows from consumer to retailer, but also between retailers and users' spending habits with little data leakage, is an appealing prospect.

The question will arise as to whether the payments data collected by Libra amounts to personal data and is therefore subject to the famous EU GDPR. Due to their sizeable subscriber base, Facebook and other social media platforms only need a kernel of information to identify an individual for targeted advertising. Importantly, Facebook will only be allowed to use that personal data for the purposes for which it was initially collected. We are starting to see examples, in the form of complaints to data supervisory authorities and litigation, where that personal data is shared (leaked) with another function or company and used for an entirely different purpose without justification. An individual's consumer behaviour derived from the payments data on the scale intended by Libra will be a frightening insight into our lives, regardless of whether the data is anonymised, that will pose a real headache for data supervisory authorities.

The next challenge is the regulation of the cyber risk posed by the payments network surrounding Libra. The UK Network & Information Systems Regulations (2018) (NIS) do not apply to the UK financial services sector, which the financial regulators felt they already had a robust handle on. Past fines for failures by authorised firms due to cyber-attacks have been based on the FCA's Principles for Business, the cardinal rules of UK financial business conduct. The question from here will be whether the Libra payment network is a digital service provider, thereby falling under the remit of NIS, or a payment system or other financial service which would require Bank of England or FCA supervision.

> **What happens when social media behemoths launch their own currencies?**

The potential for Facebook's Libra currency to become a globally-accepted currency over time is exciting, but it will require regulators to co-operate with each other and to adopt a consistent approach, to both overseeing Libra's operation and ensuring the protection of users' financial data.

Claude Brown, Howard Womersley Smith and Tim Dolan, Partners at Reed Smith, in conversation with James Bowater. For more information see https://www.reedsmith.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS PROVIDED BY CITY A.M.'S CRYPTO INSIDER AND IN THE CRYPTO A.M. SECTION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS INVESTMENT OR FINANCIAL ADVICE. ALWAYS CONSULT WITH YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

CRYPTO NOT REQUIRED

Jon Walsh, Associate Partner Blockchain Rookies

Cryptocurrency and Blockchain go hand in hand right? Actually, there are a plethora of use cases for enterprise Blockchain that does not require any token or crypto.

In 2016/17 we saw a glut of companies utilising Blockchain purely as a reason to justify using a token and raise a boatload of money through an ICO. In most cases, it was an attempt to deliver on their project and avoid the whole venture capital conversation. VCs require thorough due diligence on teams and projects and regulators require substantial filing and reporting when raising funds from the general public.

If you are a Twitter user you'll see lots of talk, debate and arguments over cryptocurrency and which ones have value, and very little discussion around enterprise blockchain – Blockchain without crypto just isn't anywhere near as exciting…

Enterprise Blockchain will surely be here well beyond most tokens in the market today. I would also argue that aiming to solve food supply chain transparency, reduce oceanic shipping times, or prevention of blood diamonds entering the market are far more important things that Blockchain can help solve – and none of this requires a nonsense token in the ecosystem.

When you understand that Blockchain is little more than a fancy database to record ownership (or custody) of a given item, and then apply that to places where trust is low, it's easy to see how adding in a token just creates multiple complexities that aren't required.

If you're considering doing a Blockchain POC to solve industry woes that are awash in whatever industry you work in, focus on how a shared ledger with common and agreed standards (to act as a central source of truth), is able to deal with this and forget all about the idea of tokens or coins – it's a smokescreen.

Get in touch with us info@blockchainrookies.com /

Craft Coin Company Presents:
Quo Vadis Crypto Exchanges?
A Panel Discussion for Beer and Blockchain Club
Wednesday 26th June @ German Kraft Brewery SE1 6DR
Scan QR Code for event details.

CRYPTOCOMPARE MARKET VIEW

Bitcoin Soars Past $10,000 as Facebook Libra Announced

Last week saw the heavily-anticipated Facebook Libra cryptocurrency and blockchain announced, complete with a white paper and accompanying wallet, named Calibra. The new stablecoin is to be backed by a basket of fiat currencies and will be managed by a Geneva-based non-profit - with founding members including Visa, Paypal, Uber and Coinbase. The plans almost immediately sparked a regulatory backlash as lawmakers in the US and France voiced their opinion that the Libra plans should be stopped in their tracks.

Bitcoin meanwhile had a stellar week, soaring over the weekend past the key resistance level at $10,000, before crossing the $11,000 mark - reaching highs not seen since January 2018. Altcoins also saw impressive gains, with ethereum (ETH) surging past the $300 mark - a price it last traded at in August 2018.

Quadriga CX, the Canadian cryptocurrency exchange that collapsed after the death of its CEO and founder in 2018, may have committed fraud according to a report published last week by EY. Aside from losing $190 million of customer funds, auditors also reported that the founder lost millions of dollars by margin trading on other exchanges with funds taken from QuadrigaCX.

In response to the proliferation of problematic exchanges such as QuadrigaCX, CryptoCompare has launched a new Exchange Benchmarking Tool to reveal trusted exchanges. Ranking exchanges across several metrics from geography to team and market quality, the new tool arrives at a notion of "trusted volume" for exchanges ranked from AA to B.

In other news, Algorand, the proof-of-stake-based blockchain from respected cryptographer Silvio Micali, completed its token sale. Using a Dutch auction, the Algo tokens were sold at a value of $2.40 - raising $60 million. The token sale gave the project an implied market cap of $24 billion - not far off that of leading altcoin Ethereum.

CRYPTO A.M. INDUSTRY VOICES

Facebook has changed the game with Libra

Love them or Hate them Facebook has changed the game. Libra coin is what every alt coin wishes it could be. An amazing collection of paying partners that will act as nodes, provide liquidity for the token, and eventually govern the project. Combined with access to over 2 billion people and, providers, Libra shows what projects can be when scale is involved. It is important is to look at Libra not through the lens of a Western crypto early adopter, but through that of a member of a future global economy.

In the near term Libra coin allows Facebook to implement a global version of WeChat. If you haven't used WeChat, it is hard to understand how dominant and pervasive it is. So, why can't Facebook just launch the same functionalxity? Why does Libra need to exist? Simply put, WeChat runs on RMB. Facebook's 2.5 billion active users span hundreds of countries and currencies. Libra will allow Facebook to provide similar, seamless functionality without tripping up over the global payments system. The involvement of Stripe and Visa makes clear that Libra will be fungible both on and off line.

Sitting in London with our easy to set up and use bank accounts it is tempting to dismiss this kind of innovation as bandwagon jumping. I think it is revolutionary. Libra's website makes it clear that they see the unbanked as their first challenge. In countries such as India there are more smartphones than there are bank accounts. From 2020 unbanked users will be able to set up the equivalent of account on their mobile using their PAN card (a type of ID all Indians carry) and suddenly they will exist in the financial system. This is huge.

People will work, be paid cash, and convert to Libra via the local store. This opens up untold opportunities instead of remaining economically restricted to their immediate area. Think this will not happen? Just look at mPesa in Kenya. Libra will be cheaper, faster, ubiquitous and global. Facebook do not want to own these services. By making Libra programmable, they are banking on entrepreneurs building on top of it.

Many dismiss Libra as an evil plan by Facebook. Virtue signalling abounds by people condemning an initiative they don't want to understand. Libra does not pretend it is a decentralized system, but have laid out a clear roadmap to proof-of-stake. They are even more clear that this is not about marrying data to financial transactions - undoubtedly others will, but this is not their end. Facebook was founded on the notion of connecting the world. Libra is a logical next step.

Facebook will benefit if this is a success. But they are not acting as a rent seeking centralised entity. So many blockchain businesses have preached a decentralised utopia, accessible only if you recentralise all the money to their pockets. Libra has been designed to be built upon, any profit Facebook makes will be reward for their connecting of over 2 billion people. It is the rails upon which crypto will live or die.

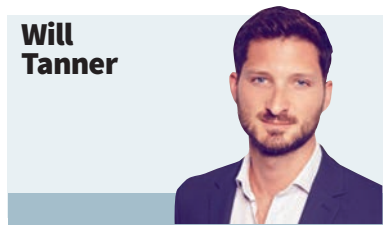
Many of the mutterings across the cryptosphere remind me of angsty teenagers upset their favourite band is popular. Crypto and blockchain are not single entities. They are a paradigm shift of technology and economic philosophy. Importantly, 99.99% of people do not care what the technology is. Libra will deliver the users, developers, partners, and network needed to see if we can deliver on all of the promises we've made about blockchain. It's structure, and arrival, marks the time for building real companies.

James Tabor, Automat VC http://linkedin.com/in/james-tabor-8009572

OFFICE POLITICS

Out of the prison cell, into the workplace

Want to cut crime? Give ex-offenders the chance of work, security, and redemption



CRIME is a top tier political issue for members of the public, but it has barely featured in the race for Number 10 Downing Street.

Beyond the popular but reactive refrain of putting more bobbies on the beat, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt have so far failed to spell out how they would curb rising criminality on Britain's streets.

So much for the traditional party of law and order.

The leadership contenders should begin with a longstanding Conservative truth: that the best way to lift up the vulnerable and help those with troubled life chances is by giving them the independence and security of a steady job.

This principle runs through our welfare system; it must now be rooted in our criminal justice system too.

A wealth of academic evidence shows the influence of employment in desistance from crime. Work offers the social relationships, financial stability, and sense of purpose that are critical for keeping people on the straight and narrow.

Analysis for the Ministry of Justice reveals that a steady job can cut reoffending risk by 20 percentage points for those leaving prison, and some international studies imply a reduction of as much as 38 percentage points.

Yet Britain's prisons are failing in all but their most basic purpose. It is a well known but damning statistic that half of prisoners go on to commit another crime within a year of leaving prison, a figure that has barely moved in decades.

Less widely known is the fact that just 17 per cent of prisoners are in steady work a year after leaving the prison gate – despite the labour market being at full employment and vacancies at their highest in years.

The reality is that prisons have become holding pens of idleness and boredom – a fifth of prisoners spend fewer than two hours out of their cell every day.

At the same time, the number of prisoners on learning courses has fallen by 13 per cent over the last two years, and the number achieving GCSE-level qualification fell by two thirds between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Just 17 per cent of prisoners are in steady work a year after leaving the prison gate

No wonder the vast majority of prisoners leave custody with the literacy and numeracy levels of an 11-year-old.

As my report for the think tank Onward sets out today, the answer is to turn prisons into centres of training and work – to give every ex-offender the opportunity of a decent, paid job after they leave.

Learning from countries such as Norway, whose prisoner employment rate is 34 per cent, Her Majesty's Prison Service should require every prisoner to train or work for 40 hours a week, and track their progress from reception to release.

To transition from prison gate to job interview, ministers should help offenders gain experience while still behind bars, through new prisoner apprenticeships and an expansion of Release on Temporary Licence, where prisoners are allowed out during the day to work in the community.

Most importantly, though, we need a sea change in the attitudes of employers. Our polling reveals that only a third of employers say they would employ an ex-offender, compared to half who would not, despite only one per cent of bosses surveyed having had a bad experience hiring one.

We propose Employment Councils of local business leaders in every prison and a nationwide Second Chances scheme to accredit enlightened employers who take a chance.

We have been asked to give the candidates for the post of Prime Minister a chance at redemption. We should do the same for people in our prison system too.

Will Tanner is director of Onward, which today publishes its new report Unlocking A Better Life: Why we need an employment revolution in our prisons and how to achieve it. Find out more at ukonward.com/research.

yu

GAME-CHANGER

Yulife
Free

It's as though your gym bag is watching you as you tuck into a doughnut. And again, when you agree to join your colleague Sally at the pub. The problem is that you don't have the incentive. Yulife can solve that by rewarding you with virtual coins when you exercise, which can then be exchanged for real-life vouchers.

COFFEE BREAK

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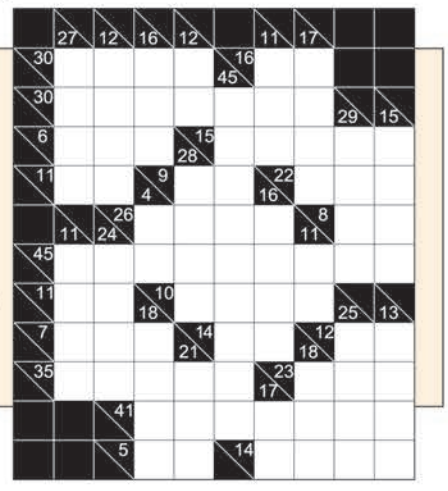
SUDOKU

Place the numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9 to solve this tricky Sudoku puzzle.

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

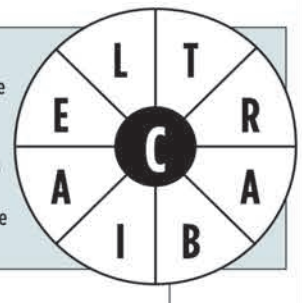
KAKURO

Fill the grid so that each block adds up to the total in the box above or to the left of it.
You can only use the digits 1-9 and you must not use the same digit twice in a block. The same digit may occur more than once in a row or column, but it must be in a separate block.

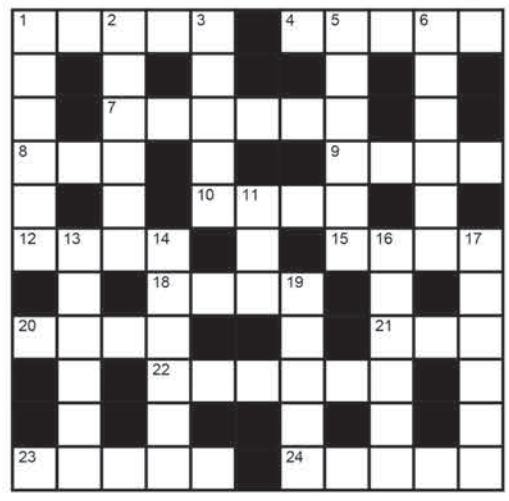


WORDWHEEL

Using only the letters in the Wordwheel, you have ten minutes to find as many words as possible, none of which may be plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Each word must be of three letters or more, all must contain the central letter and letters can only be used once in every word. There is at least one nine-letter word in the wheel.



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Brandish (5)
4 Biblical shepherd who slew Goliath (5)
7 Liqueur flavoured with anise (trademark) (6)
8 Field suitable for grazing by livestock (3)
9 Machine for weaving (4)
10 Ridge of sand (4)
12 Pilgrimage to Mecca (4)
15 Get rid of (4)
18 Graven image (4)
20 Male deer (4)
21 Ailing (3)
22 Trousers that end above the knee (6)
23 Headdress for a king or queen (5)
24 Piece of cloth used for wiping the eyes (abbr) (5)

DOWN

1 Riches (6)
2 Extend in one or more directions (6)
3 Had the courage (5)
5 Confused (6)
6 Tell (6)
11 Vehicle from another world (inits) (3)
13 Legendary king of the Britons (6)
14 Puzzle formed of many pieces (6)
16 Complete agreement (6)
17 Wheel with a groove in which a rope can run (6)
19 Deciduous conifer (5)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO

SUDOKU

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

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was **SEAWORTHY**

TRADING & INVESTMENT

UP IN SMOKE

Katherine Denham asks whether it's time to stub out your exposure to tobacco stocks

BLOW in her face and she'll follow you anywhere." That was how one advert tried to sell cigarettes back in the 1960s. More than half a century later, the glamorous, seductive veneer of the cigarette industry has gone up in smoke.

Gone is the attractive packaging, which has been replaced by ugly images of tarred lungs, rotten teeth, and coffins.

And investors are increasingly recognising that the tobacco sector's days are numbered. Over the past three years, allocation to tobacco across the UK large-cap equity category average has fallen from seven per cent to four per cent, while the UK equity income category has fallen from 6.3 per cent to 3.6 per cent, according to Morningstar.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the UK's largest pension scheme, Nest, announced that it will sell all of its shares in tobacco companies, divesting its £40m holdings over the next two years.

"Tobacco companies are facing legal challenges across the world from governments taking action against an industry causing serious harm to their citizens," says Nest's chief investment officer, Mark Fawcett.

It's not just Britain that has got tough on tobacco either, as 194 countries (including the UK) signed up to the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco in 2005, in which members have committed to reducing the demand for tobacco. As a result, strict governmental controls on marketing, advertising and selling of tobacco products have been put in place, such as banning the sale of tobacco products to under-21s in certain US states.

"In our opinion, tobacco is a struggling industry which is being regulated out of existence," Fawcett adds.

And of course, this harsher regulatory environment has made it a lot harder for tobacco companies to attract new customers, while these businesses are also battling declining volumes in traditional cigarettes due to the growing popularity of e-cigarettes.

NICOTINE HIGH

Despite clear questions over the sustainability of the tobacco sector, Nest is the first auto-enrolment scheme in the UK to announce its intention to divest.

And indeed, almost every asset manager in the UK has at least one fund that is exposed to this sector.

So while the health risks are clear, tobacco companies are still big business. Indeed, the UK's two tobacco companies, British American Tobacco and Imperial Tobacco, still feature highly in the FTSE 100 index.

Keith Bowman, equity analyst at Interactive Investor, says that both of these companies are still attractive to investors because of the dividend payments on offer. "Both continue to offer yields comfortably above the average of the FTSE 100 index," he says.

And while the demise of the tobacco industry has been predicted for some time, Bowman reckons that it shouldn't be stubbed out just yet. "Investors may be underestimating the timing and impact which increased regulation could have. For now, expectations appear to point to around the middle of the next decade for any ban to take full effect, giving the industry time to build sales of alternatives."

> "This struggling industry is being regulated out of existence

As with everything investment-related, timing is critical – and for the most part, it's the timing of US regulations that investors need to be aware of.

For example, the US is mulling a potential ban on menthol cigarettes, which are often seen as a gateway into smoking. Likewise, a possible move to impose maximum nicotine levels on cigarettes by the US regulator also raises investor uncertainty.

However, consensus expectations suggest that these proposed rules are unlikely to come into force within the next 10 years, therefore giving the industry time to adjust.

For now, Bowman points out that valuations on the two big FTSE 100 companies are at 10-year average discounts. "Consensus opinion gives both UK companies the benefit of the doubt, coming in at a buy."

SLOW-BURNER

While you might be able to buy tobacco stocks at a bargain price and make a short-term gain, holding these stocks over a long period of time is unlikely to be a good idea.

Bear in mind that British American Tobacco and Imperial Tobacco share prices have declined 20 per cent and 29 per cent respectively over the past five years. This is perhaps unsurprising given that smoking has hit an all-time low, with 25 per cent fewer UK adults smoking over that period.

The Share Centre compared the share price performance of stocks deemed unhealthy (including British American Tobacco, Diageo, Domino's Pizza, Coca-Cola, McDonald's and Nestle) to companies more steered towards wellness and sport (like Adidas, Fresh Del Monte Produce, Lululemon, Nike, Under Armour, and Weight Watchers). It found that if you had invested £1,000 in the healthy companies, your pot would have grown by £1,245 after five years, while if you had invested in the unhealthy companies, you would have gained £710 over the same period (British American Tobacco performed the worst of the six companies).

Ultimately, while the picture might not look too bad in the short-term, there is no denying that the smoking industry is burning away slowly. In fact, the World Health Organisation forecasts that prevalence of tobacco smoking will fall to 18.9 per cent by 2025, from 22.1 per cent in 2010.

This inevitably has a knock-in impact on the performance of tobacco stocks.

And unless tobacco companies are making a conscious effort to diversify into alternatives, long-term investors should be cautious, particularly if they are investing for their pensions.

With health and wellness currently valued at £3.3 trillion, making it the fastest growing sector in the world, perhaps asset managers should look to swap their smoking habit for the better-performing and more sustainable wellness sector.

Great expectations: Is bond-buying back?

CNBC COMMENT

Joumanna Bercetche

A WEEK of dovish fireworks out of the central banking community has just gone by, with most of the world's leading central banks now shifting towards easing in light of the downside risks to growth.

The latest meeting of the US Federal Reserve showed that eight out of 17 Federal Open Market Committee participants are forecasting rate cuts this year.

The interest rate market has gone even further, pricing in a little more than two 25 basis points cuts in 2019. Some analysts, such as UBS chief US economist Seth Carpenter, are even calling for a 50 basis points cut in July.

Subsequent debate has been ongoing around how long this easing cycle may last for.

There are certainly parallels between the environment today and 1995-1996.

Back then, the Fed embarked on a series of three interest rate cuts (75 basis points) in total, with the catalyst being low inflation rather than a recessionary economy, remarkably similar to today. The whole cycle lasted for seven months.

One ensuing question for investors is how to trade this likely upcoming round of interest rate cuts in the face of weakening economic activity.

According to recent weekly data from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, inflows into US equities accelerated to around $16.7bn, the highest inflow since March – coinciding with both the S&P and Dow hitting new record all-time highs.

Despite fixed income also posting strong gains as an asset class – with the yield for US 10-year note dipping below two per cent for the first time since November 2016 – inflows into government bonds and high grade credit actually dropped to $4bn from $9.8bn a week earlier.

The appetite then for stock markets remains strong. But what about performance?

Goldman Sachs equity analyst David Kostin analysed equity returns during the past 35 years following the start of Fed cutting cycles. Its analysis show that the S&P index climbed a median of two per cent and 14 per cent during the three and 12-month periods following the start of a cycle.

The performance was strongest during the 12 months following the cuts in July 1995 and September 1998 (it jumped by 23 per cent in both instances).

In terms of sectors, healthcare and consumer staples sectors performed best, while technology posted the worst returns, with a fall of 13 per cent over 12 months.

For interest rate traders, the magnitude of the cutting cycle will determine where the most rewarding trades will be.

Given that the interest rate curve is already pricing in more than two cuts for this year, you have to expect three or more over the next six months in order to make money.

However, not everyone is convinced.

Maya Bhandari of Colombia Threadneedle told CNBC's Street Signs last week that they lightened their portfolios to fixed income markets, because they think the interest rate market is pricing in too much easing.

Given the performance last week, however, both bond and equity investors may still be in for a good run. The bond-buying trade seems to be back for now.

Joumanna Bercetche is a London-based reporter for CNBC, covering company and geopolitical news.

MOTORING

BY MOTORINGRESEARCH.COM FOR CITY A.M.

TIME TRAVELLER

At nearly 90 years old, the Riley 9 War Department Tourer feels like a relic from another world. **Ethan Jupp** journeys back in time.

There are classic cars, and there are vintage cars. The former go back a generation or three to Jaguar E-Types, Ferrari 250s and the like – the sort of thing your parents or grandparents would have lusted after.

The Riley 9 War Department Tourer, built in 1931, is very much the latter. It comes from a different world, one before colour television, rock 'n' roll and the atomic bomb.

So what is the Riley 9? The company started as a cycle manufacturer in 1896, then evolved into Riley Limited – making motor cars – in 1912. The 9 is one of the marque's most successful models, with words like 'compact' and 'sport' used to describe it in-period. The Riley brothers were confident in their creation, too, calling it 'The Wonder Car'.

For a vintage Riley you can expect to pay anything between £30,000 for the car seen here, up to beyond £1m for a six-cylinder MPH two-seater.

I drove a War Department Tourer at Bicester Heritage, a mecca for vintage car enthusiasts, under the expert tutelage of Blue Diamond Riley Services. The company, also based at Bicester, has more than 40 years of experience in restoring and servicing Rileys.

The WD was so-named for its suitability for army use, and many were exported to Britain's colonies. It had increased ground clearance, a strengthened chassis and larger 21-inch wheels: perfect for ferrying government and military officials across harsh terrain. It's very much at the rough-and-tough end of the Riley spectrum, and its body-on-frame design offered much scope for different body types and customisation.

Driving the WD Tourer is an alien experience, one for which you can only prepare with seat-time in commercial machinery, or other historic cars of this era. I don't care to admit how many times I reached for a seat-belt – a safety device that wasn't mandatory for another 50 years.

RILEY 9 WAR DEPARTMENT TOURER	
PRICE THEN:	£400
PRICE NOW:	£30,000
HORSEPOWER:	9HP
TOP SPEED:	60MPH
NUMBER MADE:	20,000+

THE VERDICT	
DESIGN	★★★★☆
PERFORMANCE	★☆☆☆☆
PRACTICALITY	★★★☆☆
VALUE	★★★★☆

The way it starts and runs is quite modern, though. Believe it or not, this 1930s Riley has a starter button (indeed, this is where the expression 'starts on the button' comes from). When I first pressed it, I held it down, thinking the engine hadn't fired. To my surprise, it had, but the clatter of internal combustion never came. Instead, the incredibly clever 1.0-litre twin-cam four-cylinder ran smooth and quiet: a testament to Riley's habit of over-engineering its cars. That said, horsepower doesn't get into double figures.

The four-speed gearbox is more of a challenge. It doesn't have synchromesh, so shift perfectly or you'll crunch the cogs. At worst, you could turn the transmission into a bowl of jagged metal.

You also need to double de-clutch. In a modern manual car, you dip the clutch, change gear, then lift it again. In the Riley, you have to dip the clutch, take it out of the previous gear, lift the clutch (when in neutral), dip the clutch again, select the next gear, then lift out again. That's on the way up. On the way down, you need a precise throttle-blip before selecting the lower gear.

Factor in the vintage brakes and steering from a large boat, and you soon appreciate how easy cars are to drive today.

Conversely, the Riley offers unrivalled fun and reward at speeds below 30mph. Every gearshift, every well-judged brake, every carefully carved corner, feels like an achievement.

Consider now that the guys at Blue Diamond happily took the WD, along with four other pre-war Rileys, on a 2,800-mile drive to Monaco for the Monte Carlo Classique rally – often in sub-zero conditions – all in the name of raising funds for mental health charity OCD Action.

By contrast, I'm floating around in a new BMW 8 Series at the moment, a car so incomprehensibly capable it's dull at several times the speed. Sometimes progress isn't everything.

Riley photos by George Howson of Petroleum and Co. Ethan Jupp writes for Motoring Research

NOT CONVINCED? CHECK OUT THESE ALTERNATIVES...

AUSTIN 7

PRICE THEN:	£150
PRICE NOW:	£9,000+
HORSEPOWER:	24HP
TOP SPEED:	60MPH
NUMBER MADE:	290,000

THE VERDICT:	
DESIGN	★★★☆☆
PERFORMANCE	★★☆☆☆
PRACTICALITY	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★★★

VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE

PRICE THEN:	£500
PRICE NOW:	£6,000
HORSEPOWER:	30HP
TOP SPEED:	72MPH
NUMBER MADE:	21,000,000

THE VERDICT:	
DESIGN	★★★☆☆
PERFORMANCE	★★☆☆☆
PRACTICALITY	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★★☆

CITROEN 2CV

PRICE THEN:	£700
PRICE NOW:	£5,500
HORSEPOWER:	9HP
TOP SPEED:	40MPH
NUMBER MADE:	3,800,000

THE VERDICT:	
DESIGN	★★★★★
PERFORMANCE	★☆☆☆☆
PRACTICALITY	★★★☆☆
VALUE	★★★☆☆

THE PUNTER

CRICKET TRADER

Charlie Robertson previews today's Cricket World Cup match between England and Australia

Australia can dent England's World Cup hopes

David Warner scored his second hundred of the tournament against Bangladesh

Well I'm not sure many would have predicted that! Just as we thought England were going to enjoy a smooth passage through to the semi-finals of the 2019 Cricket World Cup, an unexpected speed bump has made things much tougher than they were just a few days ago.

Based on both recent results and the huge gap between the two sides in the ICC rankings, Eoin Morgan and Co would have been pretty confident of seeing off a lowly Sri Lanka team that had only beaten Afghanistan.

And that confidence looked to be justified at the halfway stage given their opponents' seemingly well below-par total of 232-9.

However, a combination of some superb Sri Lankan bowling and a number of loose shots saw England bowled out for just 212.

It's a result that isn't fatal, but it's not exactly the ideal preparation for their remaining matches against Australia, India and New Zealand – the three sides England look to be competing with for the trophy.

They begin this crucial period of the tournament against Australia at Lord's today.

The Aussies seem to be coming to the boil nicely and what's perhaps most worrying for their rivals is that they don't seem to have played that well, yet they've won five of their six matches so far, with a defeat to India the only blot on their record.

Since that defeat, they've won three on the bounce against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with David Warner's return to form a more than welcome bonus.

Like his country, Warner begun the tournament slowly, with his usual attacking flamboyance replaced by an uncharacteristically circumspect approach.

However, three innings and two swashbuckling hundreds later, he's the tournament's leading run-scorer.

He seems to have come back into form at just the right time and with opening partner Aaron Finch also near the top of the run-scoring charts, England's bowlers will need to be at their best.

Even before Warner and Steve Smith's reintroduction, this was a side in form having recorded series wins over both India and Pakistan earlier in 2019.

Both were without that dynamic duo, so to have the ability to bring two players of such quality back into an already successful side really shows the ability the Australians have and you can guarantee they won't be giving up their title without a serious fight.

England come into this knowing three wins guarantee them a final-four spot, although two wins would probably get the job done as well.

Their confidence will have certainly taken a knock after Friday's defeat and although they've proved on a number of occasions their ability to bounce back from disappointment, they've yet to beat Australia, India or New Zealand in the World Cup since 1992 – a stat that must be in the back of their minds.

Having tipped Australia to win the tournament, I'm pretty happy with their current position and I'm leaning towards them again here.

As I mentioned, they seem to be peaking at the business end of the tournament and they come into this brimming with confidence having won their last three in good fashion.

Buying Australia at 46 on Sporting Index's 100-50-0 Index looks the call, with a victory for the old enemy winning you 54 times your stake.

POINTERS

Buy Australia 100-50-0 Index 46 (Sporting Index)

Smith and Warner to show what Aussies have been missing

Despite calls from the likes of Virat Kohli for World Cup crowds to take it easy on disgraced ball-tampering duo Steve Smith and David Warner, it seems unlikely they'll encounter a very forgiving crowd at Lord's today.

Frankly, the reception they receive will be of little concern to either man, or to the Australians as a whole.

It's a joint Ashes and World Cup summer in England and the Aussies, as always, have come to win, not make friends.

Both Smith and Warner have stepped up for their side so far during the tournament.

Warner looked far from his belligerent best in the tournament's early stages, but has found form recently with two hundreds.

Smith has been slightly less successful since his return, but has still picked up three handy fifties.

He is the consistent scoring, calming influence on this Australian team, akin to Joe Root for England.

Smith has eight international centuries against England, and although just one of them has come in ODIs, he did grab one in the sides' recent warm-up game.

Sporting Index offer a spread on Smith's performance of 46-51 and that buy price looks too good to turn down. Smith has shown on numerous occasions his ability to turn up in the big games and there aren't any bigger than this for either nation, so I'll be backing the former Aussie skipper to lead from the front again.

Likewise, I'm keen to support David Warner here.

As I mentioned, he started the tournament slowly, but is bang in form now and the often pantomime villain will like nothing else than inflicting more misery on the old enemy today.

He averages 66 in World Cups and I'll be backing him to continue his fine form again.

POINTERS

Buy David Warner Performance 58 (Sporting Index)

Buy Steve Smith Performance 51 (Sporting Index)

SPORT

ANTE UPPED FOR ENGLAND

Sri Lanka defeat makes Australia a significant step in World Cup quest, writes **Felix Keith**

A WEEK ago people were worried about dead rubbers. The International Cricket Council have Sri Lanka to thank for changing the conversation, because with England meeting Australia at Lord's today that concern is nowhere near the top of the agenda.

England's defeat on Friday has put the cat amongst the pigeons, upping the ante and turning up the pressure on the World Cup favourites to remind everyone just why they hold that tag.

The hosts' situation – sitting in fourth place with their remaining games against the current top three of Australia, India and New Zealand – means sandpaper shouldn't matter either, despite Eoin Morgan stirring the pot yesterday by saying fans can "do what they want" in reaction to the presence of Steve Smith and David Warner.

This is the perfect set up for the match: a heady mix mix of back-story, rivalry and, crucially, importance to the points table. While England don't absolutely need to win to secure a semi-final place, they won't want to leave progression down to their results against the only two currently unbeaten sides.

PENDULUM SWING

It's amazing how the pendulum can swing in sport. England have spent the last four years beating all comers, climbing the one-day international rankings and developing an aggressive, effective style of play. Australia, meanwhile, have endured plenty of bumps in the road since their 2015 World Cup win, with Smith and Warner's one-year ban for ball-tampering contributing to an identity crisis of sorts.

England may have lost a warm-up match last month but they have won nine of the last 10 ODIs between the two teams. Australia, meanwhile, have admitted to trying and failing to copy their game-plan.

And yet they meet today with the narrative not quite turned on its head, but certainly vastly altered.

The nature of the 20-run defeat by Sri Lanka and the ongoing absence of key opener Jason Roy means the usually impenetrable armour of England is now showing areas of weakness.

With openers Warner and Aaron Finch having posted 843 runs in 12 innings at a combined average of 70.25 and Mitchell Starc in prolific form, with 15 wickets at 20.26, Australia undoubtedly have the weapons to exploit them.

A green-tinged pitch, which has to hold up for Australia's tie against New Zealand on Saturday, means Starc and Pat Cummins may well get a surface which suits them nicely. Lord's has historically been a happy hunting ground for Australia too, with eight ODI wins to England's five in head-to-head contests at the venue since 1972.

"When we get beaten we tend to come back quite strong, we tend to resort to aggressive, smart, positive cricket," said Morgan after the Sri Lanka loss. He's right, and England certainly have the firepower to do just that.

Jofra Archer and Mark Wood can be just as frightening as Starc and Cummins and have taken 27 tournament wickets at a combined average of 17.42, while the form of Joe Root is also a massive positive, with the No3 having scored 424 runs at 84.80 in six innings so far.

"This tournament is going to be about who can hold their nerve in the big moments," said Australia coach Justin Langer in the build-up. England have earned their title as the best ODI side in the world. If they want to win the World Cup they need to master the big moments – starting today at Lord's.

Applies to England v Australia on 25th June only. Paddy Power will donate £10,000 if Steve Smith is caught out and £10,000 if David Warner is caught out. Donations will be made to Workaid. Max donation £20,000.

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Reavie's win shows value of staying power in golf

GOLF COMMENT

Sam Torrance

CHEZ Reavie would have been delighted with his third-place finish at the US Open a few weeks ago, but his victory at the Travelers Championship on Sunday was something special for the American.

Reavie had gone nearly 11 years without a PGA Tour win – a period spanning 250 tournaments and 3,983 days – but made good on his form to end his drought in Connecticut.

The 37-year-old started the final round with a six-shot lead, but needed an important birdie at the 17th to hold off a charge from compatriot Keegan Bradley to seal it on 17-under-par, scoop a $1.2m prize pot and move from 35th to 12th in the FedEx season points.

Reavie played beautifully at Pebble Beach to tie for third behind winner Gary Woodland and looks to be swinging wonderfully at the moment. He did most of his work on Saturday, shooting seven birdies in a superb back nine to outdo the rest of the field. He may be a bit of a journeyman and he doesn't hit it miles, but he's got a fluent swing and a solid game.

The fact he hadn't won since the Canadian Open in July 2008 shows just how much golf is a sport built on longevity; if you can stick in there and never give up your form can change. He knew he was playing well after the US Open and took his chance when it presented itself on the weekend.

Reavie underwent surgery on his wrist in 2014 and later on his knee, so it's great to see him work his way into form and come back with a win. I never really struggled with injuries – just the odd neck strain – but I know how difficult they can be to shake off.

PAVAN TAKES PLAY-OFF

On the European Tour there was disappointment for England's Matt Fitzpatrick, who lost a play-off against Italy's Andrea Pavan at the BMW International Open.

Fitzpatrick had his chances in Munich. He bogeyed 17, then made a fantastic birdie at the last, leaving a putt inches short for an eagle to win it.

However, he was very lucky in the first hole of the play-off, with his second shot pitching on a downslope and plugging a foot short of a water hazard.

It wasn't to be for him but it was an impressive win for Pavan, whose second victory after the Czech Masters last August moves him up to 32 in the Race To Dubai standings.

He won four times on the Challenge Tour, so he knows what it's like but it's still great to get over the line, especially in a play-off. Pavan admitted the last hole didn't suit him, but he still managed to make a fantastic birdie to win it, hitting a wedge to within two feet.

Matt Wallace put up a great defence of his title, finishing joint third alongside fellow Englishman Jordan Smith to show the quality of his game. Wallace is a powerful player and he'll be frustrated he couldn't pass Pavan on the final few holes as the opportunities were there. Smith also looks a really good player, but like Wallace he couldn't quite pull it off.

Finally, it looks like we might have a new star in the women's game, with 22-year-old world No114 Hannah Green of Australia winning the Women's PGA to become the 11th successive different Major winner.

Chez Reavie went nearly 11 years without a PGA Tour victory

Sam Torrance OBE is a multiple Ryder Cup-winning golfer and media commentator. Follow him @torrancesam

SWEDE'S SAVE Lindahl the hero as Canada exit Women's World Cup

Hedvig Lindahl saved a penalty as Sweden beat Canada 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals of the Women's World Cup last night. Stina Blackstenius put Sweden ahead on the counter-attack before Lindahl's full-length dive kept out Janine Beckie's strike following handball by Kosovare Asllani to send them through to face Germany. Earlier Megan Rapinoe scored two penalties as the USA edged past Spain 2-1.

SHAKIB LEADS BANGLADESH TO WIN OVER AFGHANISTAN

Shakib Al Hasan starred with bat and ball yesterday to help Bangladesh beat Afghanistan by 62 runs and keep their hopes of reaching the World Cup semi-finals alive. Shakib scored 51 alongside Mushfiqur Rahim (83) as Bangladesh posted 262-7 batting first at the Rose Bowl before taking 5-29 in his 10 overs to bowl Afghanistan out for 200. The victory moved the Tigers to fifth in the table, one point behind England, who face second-placed Australia at Lord's today.

BENITEZ TO LEAVE MAGPIES AFTER DEAL DEADLOCK

Rafael Benitez will leave Newcastle on Sunday after failing to agree a new contract with the Premier League club. Benitez took over in March 2016 and guided the Magpies to 13th in the top flight last season, but has been at odds with owner Mike Ashley, who has been in talks to sell the club. "We have worked hard to extend Rafa's contract over a significant period of time," said Newcastle in a statement.

CROATIA COME BACK THREE TIMES IN UNDER-21S DRAW

England ended their European Under-21 Championship in disappointing fashion last night as Croatia came from behind three times to draw 3-3 in San Marino. Goals from Arsenal's Reiss Nelson, Leicester's James Maddison and Everton's Jonjoe Kenny put the Young Lions ahead but each time they were pegged back, with Josip Brekalo scoring twice and Nikola Vlasic once. The result saw England finish third in Group C, behind Romania and France, with just one point from three games.

SPORT DIGEST

BARTY INJURED BUT KONTA AND MURRAY IN ACTION

New world No1 Ashleigh Barty has withdrawn from the Nature Valley International at Eastbourne with an arm injury. French Open champion Barty said the bone stress injury needed to be managed ahead of Wimbledon, which starts on Monday. Andy Murray will play alongside Brazilian Marcelo Melo in the men's doubles at Eastbourne today, while Johanna Konta faces Maria Sakkari.

ITALY WINS VOTE TO HOST 2026 WINTER OLYMPICS

Italy will host the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics. Milan and ski resort Cortina d'Ampezzo will take on the games in February and March of 2026 after the International Olympic Committee voted yesterday for Italy's joint bid ahead of Stockholm, Sweden.

Betfair Exchange offered the lowest average match overrounds since 1/1/19 on all major cricket matches vs leading bookmakers. 5% Commission deducted. Other charges may apply. T&Cs apply.

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Can England's opening bowlers knock them down a peg or two? There's no fence-sitting, are you buying or selling?

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