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BUSINESS WITH PERSONALITY

A WHOLE NEW BEAST JAG'S MUSCLEBOUND SUV DOES THE JOB P19

CHEERS! COULD NYETIMBER BE BRITAIN'S NEXT BIG LUXURY BRAND? P12

TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2019 | ISSUE 3,453 CITYAM.COM FREE

LAST ORDERS

- **CONTROVERSIAL COMMONS SPEAKER JOHN BERCOW TO QUIT ROLE AT THE END OF OCTOBER**
- **JOHNSON FAILS TO SECURE AN ELECTION AS PARLIAMENT SHUTS DOWN FOR THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS**

CATHERINE NEILAN
@CatNeilan

FOR THE second time, opposition MPs denied Boris Johnson the General Election he desired in the Commons' last act before parliament closed for five weeks.

Though MPs voted in favour of an early election by 293 to 46, the government did not get the two-thirds majority of the whole house required.

Opposition leaders abstained, fearing the government could push the vote back beyond 31 October, when the UK is due to leave the EU.

The midnight vote came at the end of a dramatic last day of term in Westminster, with controversial speaker John Bercow pledging to step down on Halloween – ensuring he will remain in place through vital Brexit votes when parliament returns next month.

Johnson told the Commons after the vote that he had urged the Commons to "trust the people" but said the opposition "think they know better."

He said Labour want to "delay Brexit without any further reference to those who voted for it" and had "twice denied the British people their say".

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he "was not prepared to risk the disaster of inflicting no-deal" on the country and that he did not trust the government to obey a law taking no-deal off the table.

Earlier in the day, Johnson had visited Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar in Dublin, saying that no-deal would be a "failure of statecraft for which we will all be responsible," though no immediate border breakthrough was forthcoming.

But the real drama came in Westminster, with a bill demanding the PM return to Brussels to ask for a delay if he cannot get a Brexit deal through parliament by 19 October gaining Royal Assent, followed by the speaker's surprise announcement.

Over the weekend, business secretary Andrea Leadsom revealed plans to put up a Tory candidate against the independent MP in protest at him allowing so-called rebel alliance MPs take control of the Commons agenda last week.

In recent years the speaker has been seen as helping pro-Remain MPs to fight the government, frequently siding with rebel backbenchers and opposition parties despite the role being impartial.

The Buckingham MP, who told MPs he had "never lost a night of sleep from work", came under fire after allegations of bullying surfaced last year. A report, published several months later, led to calls for his resignation amid claims he was presiding over a culture of "deference and silence".

CONTINUES ON P3

Light relief: UK steers clear of recession as July delivers unexpected GDP growth

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

THE UK ECONOMY has defied fears of a recession after growing by more than analysts had expected in July, official figures showed yesterday.

British GDP expanded by 0.3 per cent month-on-month in July after stagnating in June. Economists were expecting just 0.1 per cent growth.

The better-than-forecast figures have allayed fears that the UK economy is teetering on the edge of a recession – two consecutive quarters of contraction – after it shrank 0.2 per cent in the second quarter of 2019.

Brexit uncertainty and a global economic slowdown driven by the US-China trade war have damaged British growth this year.

But all the main sectors of the economy grew in July. Services, which makes up about 80 per cent of the UK economy, expanded by 0.3 per cent.

"The pick-up in GDP in July is a reassuring sign that the economy is on course to grow at a solid – perhaps even above-trend – rate in the third quarter," said Samuel Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

The pound finished up 0.3 per cent on the day against the dollar at $1.234.

However, Rob Kent-Smith, head of GDP at the ONS, said that despite the surprise growth in July, "the underlying picture shows services growth weakening through 2019".

PwC chief economist John Hawksworth said that "the underlying picture is still one of an economy that is flat-lining, with zero GDP growth in the three months to July as compared to the previous three months".

He added: "If there is a disorderly Brexit, the UK economy could be tipped into recession."

FTSE 100 ▼ 7,235.81 -46.53 FTSE 250 ▼ 19,678.45 -27.07 DOW ▲ 26,835.51 +38.05 NASDAQ ▼ 8,087.44 -15.64 £/$ ▲ 1.234 +0.006 £/€ ▲ 1.116 +0.003 €/$ ▲ 1.104 +0.001

CITY A.M.

THE CITY VIEW

No smooth flying for BA with Cruz in control

TO FLY. To serve. It may be the tagline of one of the UK's best known brands, but passengers of British Airways can be forgiven for grimacing at what has been dished out to them recently. In the past two years, BA customers have endured data leaks affecting more than 550,000, an IT meltdown which cost the firm £58m, and days of strike action, which this week alone grounded 1,700 flights, left its Heathrow T5 hub a ghost town and is costing the airline at least £40m a day. All on top of the usual 'travel chaos' weather events which affect all carriers. The brand damage follows BA's much-derided move down-market to scrap free seat selection and food and drink on economy short-haul flights in a cost-cutting drive to compete with budget carriers. The budget-busting coincided with Alex Cruz buckling into the chief executive's chair at BA in early 2016, having led its sister airline, Vueling, which follows the low-cost model. If anything, the showdown with the well-paid pilots at the British Airline Pilots' Association union is all part of a cost-cutting strategy which the airline's parent, International Airlines Group (IAG), had demanded. The ensuing stand-off spilling out of mediation, ruining travel plans and inflicting even more damage to the airline's dented brand, was less of a certainty, but deemed necessary to reverse IAG's share price decline which analysts say was sky-high this time last year based in-part on Cruz's cost control. Keeping a handle on pilots' pay will be worth yesterday's share slide in the long-run and is yet another test for Cruz who is charged by IAG head office to balance competing with the likes of Emirates on long-haul and Ryanair and Easyjet on short-haul routes. It isn't an easy balancing act. While you won't have to search far to find a leisure or business passenger who has sworn off the British flag-carrier, City analysts and IAG are keeping the faith that the BA boss will continue to deliver profitability (making around £2bn in profits in 2018) for the mothership. Aviation analysts agree that the airline's financial performance is somewhat insulated from headline-grabbing mishaps, IT underinvestment and a much-diluted brand power. That profit protection is due to a legacy issue from well before Cruz's tenure and more permanent than a few PR disasters: Heathrow airport. It's full, but BA has 55 per cent of all the landing slots. And BA's London hub remains the airport of choice for its sought-after high-value travellers. The summer slide of its share and reputation is unwelcome turbulence for the airline – and its customers. This week's battle may prove a necessary blip on the radar in the long-haul.

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WHEELY CLASSIC Automotive royalty gather at King Henry VII's Hampton Court Palace to celebrate the golden age of motoring

THIS Bugatti Type 57, chassis 57159, won the Octane Public Choice award at the Concours of Elegance 2019 at Hampton Court Palace over the weekend. More than 10,000 automotive enthusiasts viewed 1,000 classic cars at the event, with Best in Show awarded to the 1919 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost by Barker, as voted for by the owners of the participating cars.

Brexit set to take its toll on EU's capital markets

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarthy

CAPITAL markets in the European Union will look "smaller, less developed and more French" in the wake of Brexit, according to a report released today.

Britain's split from the EU is likely to reduce the trading bloc's global footprint in capital markets from 21 per cent of global activity to 14 per cent, putting it on a level pegging with its nearest rival China and further behind the US, think tank New Financial has warned.

EU capital markets post-Brexit will be nearly a third smaller than they are today, as the body looks poised to lose "its largest and deepest capital" in Britain's planned exit from the EU with or without a deal by the end of October.

With the UK out of the picture, the report has predicted France will be by far the biggest capital market in the EU on the other side of Brexit, with a share of total activity of around 24 per cent, ahead of Germany on 19 per cent.

"The extent to which France will be dominant in European capital markets has surprised people," said William Wright, managing director of New Financial.

He told *City A.M.*: "A lot of people would have expected Frankfurt, and people were surprised the Netherlands might be higher up, but France has got all the big markets – the biggest asset management firms, insurers, banks, bank lending – it has pretty much got a clean sweep."

Pensions assets and assets under management will shrink by more than half, while bond markets in the EU will be around one-fifth smaller and equity markets will shrink by around one quarter.

"The overall depth of capital markets relative to GDP will fall, and the EU economy will be even more reliant on bank lending and bank savings than it is today," the report added.

New Financial has also forecast that the EU will witness a change in tone and direction of policy and regulation in its capital markets post-Brexit: "Not least, the capital markets union initiative is likely to look very different under the leadership of France and Germany than it does today."

France, Germany and the Netherlands have been seeking to develop a "capital markets union" aimed at breaking down barriers to cross-border investment and boosting financial services, saying in recent months that Brexit has raised the importance of an integrated arrangement between European states.

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

SOFTBANK URGES WEWORK TO SHELVE FLOTATION
Softbank, the biggest outside shareholder in Wework, is urging the lossmaking property group to shelve its hotly-anticipated initial public offering after it received a cool reception from investors, according to people briefed on the discussions. Wework's parent company, the We Company, has been aiming to raise between $3bn (£2.4bn) and $4bn in its flotation.

LAZARD UK'S NEW BOSS: UK FIRMS VULNERABLE TO M&A
The new chief executive of Lazard UK, Cyrus Kapadia, said British-listed companies were becoming increasingly attractive targets to overseas buyers as the Brexit-linked plunge in the pound makes them cheaper. He was named head of Lazard's UK operations yesterday, taking over from William Rucker, who is now chairman.

THE TIMES

ACTIVIST INVESTOR TAKES $3.2BN SHOT AT AT&T
The hedge fund that waged a 15-year debt battle with Argentina has acquired a $3.2bn (£2.6bn) stake in the owner of the Warner Bros film studio and HBO pay-TV channels. Elliott Management, a New York-based activist investor, has called for a radical shake-up at AT&T after buying 1.2 per cent of its shares.

ABCAM DEFLATED BY BIG EXPANSION PLANS
Ambitious plans to almost double revenues at Cambridge-based biotechnology company Abcam in the next five years have been met with scepticism by the City over fears that they amounted to "jam tomorrow".

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

SOROS TO SELL STAKE IN FIBRE BROADBAND VENTURE
Billionaire investor George Soros is holding discussions about selling his stake in British ultrafast broadband venture Hyperoptic, backed by Soros' Quantum Strategic Partners since 2013 in a deal that is expected to value the company at more than £500m.

ISLINGTON FIRST LONDON COUNCIL TO BAN FUR SALE
Islington has become the first London council to ban the sale of fur, and the second in the country to do so. Traders will no longer be able to sell products containing fur in the markets of the borough, after council members said "the cruelty can no longer continue".

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

PG&E PLAN OFFERS NEARLY $18BN TO WILDFIRE VICTIMS
PG&E yesterday unveiled a plan to settle billions of dollars in wildfire-related claims and exit bankruptcy next year as it seeks to prevent creditors from taking over the embattled company.

MOODY'S CUTS FORD'S BOND RATING TO JUNK STATUS
Moody's Investors Service cut Ford Motor's bond rating to junk status, citing weak cash generation and a year's long restructuring plan that the auto maker is undertaking just as the car market softens globally. The ratings company yesterday cut Ford's rating one notch to Ba1 from Baa3.

Barclays and Lloyds weather costs of PPI rush

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY AND JAMES WARRINGTON

@SebMcCarthy @j_a_warrington

TWO OF Britain's biggest banks yesterday warned of billion-pound costs from a rush of claims for mis-sold payment protection insurance (PPI).

Barclays revealed after trading closed last night that it was facing costs of up to £1.6bn following a bigger-than-expected stampede of complaints in the run-up to the 29 August deadline.

Lloyds Banking Group also said that PPI costs could total as much as £1.8bn before the bell opened yesterday, prompting the bank to suspend its share buyback plan.

It brings the total to be paid out from the scandal to around £50bn.

Lloyds said it received between 600,000 and 800,000 claims per week in August.

Yesterday's shock announcements came a week after the Royal Bank of Scotland and CYBG warned that an unprecedented number of complaints could cost up to £900m and £450m respectively, with both groups blaming higher claims last month for a worse-than-expected blow.

The Co-operative Bank revealed it had received "a substantially greater volume of inquiries and complaints than expected", but said it needed more time to give full estimates.

The Financial Conduct Authority has reported that roughly £36bn in compensation has been paid out so far, with the typical payout amounting to £2,000. However, think tank New City Agenda predicted the PPI bill could be as much as £53bn.

"The extra costs do knock the investment case for Lloyds, as they hit return on equity, hamper the bank's plans to build up its capital buffers and therefore its ability to distribute spare cash once regulators are satisfied that it has sufficient financial ammunition to withstand any future crisis," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

"The good news is that this should at least see Lloyds through PPI and," he added. Shares in both banks edged upwards by yesterday's close.

Boris denied an early election as he fails to secure two-thirds majority

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Shortly after his emotional Commons announcement, Bercow allowed former attorney general and Downing Street bete noire Dominic Grieve to present a motion calling for government officials to hand over private communications, including text messages, emails and Whatsapp conversations, relating to the decision to prorogue parliament.

Grieve said he believed there was "a concerted get-together within government to try to ensure this House could be prevented from taking action to stop a no-deal Brexit, and that the origins of that long pre-date the first time the government mentioned prorogation."

MPs voted 311-302 in favour of his motion, which applies to nine advisers, including Cummings.

However the government is not expected to compel staff to turn over their communications.

Responding to the day's events, Lib Dem MP Sir Ed Davey called for a "People's Vote" second referendum whilst the SNP's leader in Westminster Ian Blackford said he looked forward to the day when Scotland would be out of "the clutches of a Tory Brexit and an isolationist Britain."

KRISTALINA CLEAR World Bank boss unopposed in effort to become IMF head

THE CHIEF executive of the World Bank, Kristalina Georgieva, is set to take over from Christine Lagarde as head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) after she was revealed as the only candidate. The Bulgarian is set to meet IMF executives shortly.

Nissan crisis: Car maker's chief resigns after long year of turmoil

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

THE CRISIS at Japanese automotive giant Nissan deepened yesterday, after chief executive Hiroto Saikawa was asked to quit by the board.

In an at times heated press conference in Japan yesterday, board members confirmed that Saikawa, who had already expressed a desire to leave the top job, would step down in due course.

The announcement comes days after Saikawa admitted that he had received payments that flouted company rules – but were not illegal – via a scheme designed by disgraced former chairman Carlos Ghosn, who faces criminal charges in Tokyo for financial misconduct.

Saikawa has overseen a period tarnished with financial failure, corporate scandal and job cuts since he took the job in 2017. Yesterday, he apologised to stakeholders that he had to go "while things are yet to be done" to turn the firm around. The news came as Nissan wrapped up a 10-month internal probe into Ghosn.

Ashley seeking to cuff Links to his retail empire

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarthy

RETAIL magnate Mike Ashley is hoping to ramp up his high street spending spree after putting in an offer for troubled jewellery group Links of London.

The Sports Direct owner is tabling a bid to snap up the retail outlet, according to Sky News, which reported yesterday that Ashley is one of two final bidders for the group.

The move would mark the latest in a string of major high street acquisitions from Ashley over the past 12 months, having bought up the likes of House of Fraser and Jack Wills.

Sources told Sky News that Ashley was interested in acquiring Links as part of his attempt to transform House of Fraser into "the Harrods of the high street". Last month, the owner of Links of London confirmed it had drafted in advisers to weigh up a sale of the troubled jewellery chain.

Folli Follie, the group which acquired the retailer in 2006, said it has told Deloitte and Savigny Partners to look into the option of finding a buyer for Links, which "remains in the process of a turnaround plan that the company continues to support".

Speculation of Ashley's potential purchase of the retailer comes days ahead of a major shareholder vote at Sports Direct, where he faces a potential rebellion from investors.

Advisory firm Institutional Shareholder Services has called for investors to vote against Ashley's re-election as a director amid "significant operational and governance concerns" at the sportswear group.

Sports Direct's share price has plunged almost 30 per cent in the past year. Concerns mounted among investors following unprecedented delays to the publication of its annual results this summer, coupled with the revelation it owed Belgian tax authorities €674m (£603m).

FOND FAREWELL Alibaba set for 'big challenge' as chairman Jack Ma departs

TECH billionaire Jack Ma is to step down from his role as chairman of retail giant Alibaba today. He will celebrate his exit with a farewell party at the 80,000-capacity Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center stadium in China, on what is also his 55th birthday. Ma will be replaced by Alibaba chief executive Daniel Zhang, who is left with the daunting task of steering the $460bn (£372.6bn) juggernaut at a time when the e-commerce market has slowed sharply.

Sage kicks off sale of payments processing business division

AUGUST GRAHAM
@AugustGraham

SAGE has lined up bankers to find a buyer for its payments-processing arm Sage Pay.

Investment bank Rothschild has been appointed to sell the firm, which has around 50,000 small and medium-sized business customers, Sky News reported.

It is unclear what the business could sell for, or if the bank has found much interest since it started the process weeks ago.

The news comes as Sage tries to transform itself into a cloud software firm.

Sage did not respond to request for comment.

It would be the third big disposal in three years.

Law firms top up salaries as hiring surges

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

FIRMS in the finance and business services sector intend to hire staff at the fastest rate in over a year as they prepare for Brexit.

With low levels of unemployment and competition over top candidates, the planned hiring spree has seen starting salaries in some areas of professional services balloon, with law firms becoming particularly generous.

In recent months, salaries for newly qualified solicitors have crept up to the £100,000 mark among the top City law firms, with some US outfits offering as much as £140,000.

Meanwhile, firms across all sectors are also looking to hire as they ready for life outside the EU, according to the latest recruitment survey from staffing firm Manpower Group. Despite the good news, James Hick, managing director at Manpower Group Enterprise, warned that firms may be hiring staff in the short-term rather than investing for the long-term.

The report comes ahead of today's release of official labour market figures.

Treasury refuses MPs' calls to publish shortlist for Bank of England governor

HARRY ROBERTSON
@henrygrobertson

THE TREASURY yesterday refused the demands of opposition MPs to publish the shortlist of candidates to be the next Bank of England governor, saying it "would not be appropriate" to name names.

A group of 28 opposition MPs yesterday called on chancellor Sajid Javid to publish the shortlist and raised concerns that he could appoint a political ally.

Mark Carney, who has been governor since 2012, is due to step down in January. Javid will pick the next Bank boss if he stays in office.

The letter to Javid from MPs such as SNP Commons leader Ian Blackford and Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesperson Ed Davey said: "It's crucial that the appointment of the next governor is made on merit, not narrow political expediency."

Yet the Treasury said it will not publish the shortlist and said the Treasury Select Committee can scrutinise the process once the appointment has been made.

A spokesperson said: "As we confirmed when we launched this process, we will be publishing relevant statistics covering the shortlist. It would not be appropriate to put personal information, including names from the shortlist, into the public domain."

JUMPING FELLOWSHIP Theresa May's Brexit negotiator to join Goldman Sachs

OLLY Robbins - who was awarded a knighthood last night in the former PM's honours list - will join Goldman Sachs investment division as a managing director in December. Also receiving an honour was Jimmy McLoughlin, Number 10's former business adviser, who received an OBE.


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BA boss blames 'cynical' pilots union for strikes

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

@city_amrogers

BRITISH Airways chief executive Alex Cruz yesterday blamed the "cynical actions" of its pilots' union for the two-day strike that will continue today.

BA pilots who are members of the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) began a 48-hour walk-out in a dispute over pay and working conditions yesterday.

"We're very, very, very sorry that due to the cynical actions of the pilots' union we found ourselves having to cancel flights affecting, indeed, thousands of passengers," Cruz told Sky News.

"This is by all means an own goal – it's punishing our customers first, it's punishing our brand, it's punishing 90 per cent of colleagues who have already accepted this 11.5 per cent deal. And frankly it's punishing those pilots that want to come to work every day, day in and day out, and making British Airways the best airline in the world."

BA chief executive Alex Cruz said he is 'very, very, very, sorry'

Pilots have rejected an 11.5 per cent pay rise over the next three years, which they claim is not in line with airline-owner IAG's £2bn profits. BA has said the pay proposal is "generous" and has been accepted by the Unite and GMB unions .

BA was forced to cancel almost all flights due to the strike action, which is also scheduled for 27 September.

Shares in IAG closed down 1.53 per cent at 423.50p yesterday.

ITALIAN STALLION Ferrari accelerates with two new models in bid for profit boost

ITALIAN supercar manufacturer Ferrari lifted the lid on two new cars yesterday as it pushes on with an roll-out plan designed to keep its recent profit growth in top gear. The iconic brand unveiled the F8 Spider and 812 GTS at its Maranello headquarters.

Fifty US state attorneys general join antitrust probe into Google

AUGUST GRAHAM

@AugustGraham

A GROUP of US states have opened a probe into Google, attorney general for Texas Ken Paxton said last night.

The antitrust investigation, led by Paxton, will look into big technology firms, with a focus on Google's advertising arm.

Only two states attorneys general, from Alabama and California, have not signed up to the joint effort.

It comes amid growing pressure on technology giants from authorities in the US. Last Friday, a separate group of states said it was looking into Facebook.

The firm settled for $5bn (£4bn) earlier this year over a data scandal.

Luton is ranked the UK's worst large airport

ALEXANDRA ROGERS

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LUTON airport has been ranked the worst large airport in the UK for the fourth year running by consumer watchdog Which.

Luton managed a 43 per cent customer satisfaction score in a Which survey of 4,499 of its members, who were surveyed about 6,237 experiences at UK airports. Passengers cited long security queues, airside crowds and limited seating as their reasons for ranking the airport poorly.

According to Which, Luton has found itself at the bottom of every ranking since it launched its survey in 2013.

A spokesperson for Luton airport said: "We're disappointed by our ranking but pleased to see this year's customer score has improved by 23 per cent compared to last year."

FIVE WORST UK AIRPORTS

AIRPORT	CUSTOMER SCORE
1. London Luton	43
2. Manchester Terminal 3	47
3. London Stansted	49
4. Manchester Terminal 1	50
5. Manchester Terminal 2	52

PLUGGED IN Podcast startup Entale secures £2m backing from Daily Mail

INTERACTIVE podcast startup Entale has received £2m in funding from the Daily Mail's venture capital arm to help expand its artificial intelligence technology. Entale, founded in 2017 by former Conde Nast digital boss Wil Harris, enables audiences to view social media posts, images and product links while listening to podcasts. The London startup is among a string of firms cashing in on the booming popularity of podcasts such as Off Menu.

Deloitte offers training for aspiring lawyers as part of legal expansion

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

DELOITTE Legal will offer training contracts to aspiring lawyers for the first time from today, as the Big Four continue their expansion into the legal sector.

Deloitte launched a UK legal practice in 2018, becoming the last of the Big Four firms to do so.

Today, the firm opened applications for up to 10 training contracts for aspiring solicitors to start training from September 2020, qualifying as solicitors in 2023.

Last year, Deloitte Legal hired senior Allen & Overy partner Michael Castle to lead its expansion in the UK.

At the time of his hire Castle said he wanted the firm to become a "significant player" in the UK's £26bn legal market.

Castle said: "We want to broaden access to the profession and make it as inclusive as possible.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring solicitors to earn while they learn, while also encountering the wealth of expertise beyond legal work that Deloitte Legal can offer as a multidisciplinary firm."

Unregulated company Financial.org closes with accounts frozen

CAROLYN COHN

UNREGULATED British firm Financial.org has closed down, according to a notice on its website, and four investors said their accounts had been frozen.

Reuters reported in January 2018 that the company, a former sponsor of motor racing team Williams, was managing hundreds of thousands of dollars for Asian investors even though regulators said it was not licenced to engage in such financial services.

"We have stopped operation," read a notice placed on Financial.org's website in early September.

Reuters was unable to contact Financial.org. as its website no longer contains contact details.

The Financial Conduct Authority declined to comment about the closure notice. Financial watchdogs in Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates have placed the company on alert lists of unauthorised investment firms.

Financial.org previously said on its site that it was an educational platform with 200,000 members and does not handle any investments, transactions or funds.

Reuters

Internal auditors say cyber attacks are greatest threat

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

A SURVEY of internal auditors published today has found cybersecurity, regulatory change and digitalisation are the top three risks faced by businesses across Europe.

The survey of 528 chief internal auditors found 78 per cent named cyber and data security as a top five threat facing their businesses, 59 per cent cited regulatory change and 58 per cent flagged digitalisation.

The number of chief internal auditors citing cybersecurity as a top five risk has increased 18 per cent since last year, while this year 21 per cent named it as the greatest risk their business faced.

Sixty eight per cent of chief internal auditors said cyber and security risk is one of the top five risks to which internal audit dedicates time and resources.

The chief auditor of a German multinational insurer said cybersecurity "is not just a compliance risk, but also a commercial risk and opportunity. It is something that can set us apart from our competitors."

The chief auditor of a German transport group said: "We have almost doubled our IT auditor headcount in recent years."

Other key threats were outsourcing, supply chains and third party risk (36 per cent), business continuity and resilience (31 per cent), financial risks and macroeconomic and political uncertainty (29 per cent).

Ian Peters, chief executive of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors, said: "Cybersecurity is a problem we regularly see on the news from the theft of 500m Marriott hotel guests' personal information, to the security breach which exposed 50m Facebook user identities."

Chinese car maker Geely invests in flying taxi firm Volocoptor

ALEX DANIEL

@alexmdaniel

GEELY has hedged its bets on a German startup that hopes to bring flying taxis to cities around the world, as the Chinese firm seeks to branch out from its traditional automotive business ventures.

The car maker has taken a minority stake in Volocopter, which hopes to bring air taxis to cities, and said it has raised €50m (£44.8m) from Geely and others.

The startup, which claims it is building the world's first manned, electric vertical takeoff air taxis, said yesterday that other investors in its latest funding round include German car maker Daimler, which had taken a stake in it previously.

It said the deal increased the total capital it has raised to €85m, and that the new funds will go towards bringing its Volocity aircraft to commercial launch within the next three years.

Investment funding for UK artificial intelligence sector hits record high

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarthy

INVESTORS poured a record level of money into the UK's artificial intelligence (AI) sector during the first half of 2019.

Trailing behind only China and the US, the UK is currently third in the world for raising investment in AI after hitting an all-time high in the six months to June this year.

Investment in the technology grew almost six-fold from 2014 to 2018, with UK AI scaleups raising almost double that of France, Germany and the rest of Europe combined last year, according to figures collated by Tech Nation.

AI funding in the UK has beaten 2018's figures, rising from $1.02bn (£830m) in 2018 to $1.06bn in the first six months of 2019.

"Britain has a long history as a global leader in computing technologies and it is home to the early pioneers of AI – Ada Lovelace and Alan Turing. It's great to see our legacy in this field continue by the next generation of British AI startups who are using the power of technology to solve real-world problems such as tackling fake news, detecting cancer earlier and efficiently managing waste," said digital minister Matt Warman.

Extreme weather and fiat wipeout top global threats

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY
@SebMcCarthy

GLOBAL temperature changes have become the top extreme risk for investors, according to a new index of the greatest threats to world economic growth.

Weather hazards, a collapse in global trade and cyberwarfare were ranked as the greatest risks in a report that categorises rare events that could have a high impact on world growth and asset returns.

Biodiversity collapse, the abandonment of fiat money and cyberwarfare have all moved into the top 15 risks for the first time, while deflation, insurance crises and terrorism have all dropped out.

Those that have risen up the rankings this year are infrastructure failure (up eight places) and global trade collapse (up three places).

According to the report, produced by the Thinking Ahead Institute, the extreme risks that are less of a threat than in 2013 include stagnation, which has fallen eight places, as well as resource scarcity which lost top spot by falling three places.

"Our extreme risks ranking has seen the emergence of a general trend with financial risks falling down the rankings and non-financial extreme risks growing in significance," said Tim Hodgson, head of the Thinking Ahead Group.

He added: "Global temperature change becomes the highest ranked risk due to our assessment of higher likelihood coupled with significant impact – in the extreme this would mean mass extinction."

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

Dickens House, 15 Took's Court, London, EC4A 1LB
19/00707/FULL
Installation of two condenser units on the rear flat roof to provide comfort cooling and associated renovation and updating of services and internal alterations.

1 Ropemaker Street, London, EC2Y 9AW
19/00735/FULL
Alterations to Level 8 east terrace to include removal existing projecting (non-structural) columns, installation of 1.3m high glass balustrade, timber decking, planters and seating, new double doors and a louvred plant enclosure to accommodate future plant. Installation of internal link bridges at levels 6 and 7 with adjoining staircase. Installation of five internal terraces onto the atrium at levels 6,7 and 8 with associated alterations. Alterations to ground floor entrance on the City Plaza facade to include replacement of the glass cladding (creating 9sq.m floorspace) and installation of new sliding entrance doors.

Petticoat Tower, Petticoat Square, London, E1 7EE
19/00848/FULL
Installation of four microwave equipment dishes on poles at roof level.

85 London Wall, London, EC2M 7AD
19/00859/FULL
i) Creation of a roof terrace; ii) installation of plant; iii) recladding of the existing lift overrun; iv) alteration of the lower ground floor fenestration on the south elevation; and v) replacement of ground floor access doors on the east and north elevations.

85 London Wall, London, EC2M 7AD
19/00861/FULL
i) Creation of a roof terrace; ii) recladding of the existing lift overrun; iii) alteration of the lower ground floor fenestration on the south elevation and iv) replacement of ground floor access doors on the east and north elevations.

Fenchurch Street Railway Station, Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ
19/00872/FULL
Installation of a lighting scheme comprising 71 luminaire fittings on the principal external elevation of Fenchurch Street Station.

Fenchurch Street Railway Station, Fenchurch Place, London, EC3M 4AJ
19/00873/LBC
Alterations to the principal elevation of Fenchurch Street Station comprising: (i) demolition of internal partitions and other accretions (ii) repair and redecoration of the internal surfaces (iii) restoration of the missing internal architectural details (iv) installation of a lighting scheme comprising 71 luminaire fittings on the external face of the elevation.

31 - 33 Foster Lane, London, EC2V 6HD
19/00874/FULL
Installation of two new and four replacement louvres in the external elevation.

Ground Floor Offices, 30 - 40 Eastcheap, London, EC3M 1HD
19/00886/FULL
Insertion of no 2 new external ventilation grilles on the St Mary at Hill (West) elevation of the ground floor facade on the stall riser below the existing windows.

The Bell Public House, 29 Bush Lane, London, EC4R 0AN
19/00887/LBC
Refurbishment of the WCs at ground and basement levels.

60 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7BB
19/00888/LBC
Removal and replacement of 3rd floor modern partition walls.

6 Lloyd's Avenue, London, EC3N 3AX
19/00903/LBC
Erection of internal partitions to the rear of the lower ground floor

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

Primark expansion to offset slump

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

2.08%

PRIMARK is expected to report sales growth in its full-year results, driven by the bargain retailer's store expansion plan.

Full-year sales, to be announced in November, are expected to be four per cent up on last year, Primark-owner Associated British Foods (ABF) said in a trading update yesterday.

The expansion of its international store portfolio has offset a two per cent dip in like-for-like sales.

In the UK, predicted sales growth of three per cent was driven by new selling space including the retailer's new "megastore" in Birmingham.

However, like-for-like sales are expected to have slumped one per cent as the business battled challenging market conditions on the high street.

The retailer opened 14 new stores in the year across the UK, Germany, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Slovenia, bringing its total estate to 373 shops.

The retail giant is continuing to expand in the US following a year of strong sales growth, with its 10th store in New Jersey set to open this autumn followed by a Florida branch in 2020. The company has also exchanged contracts on a Chicago store.

Shares closed down at 2,305p.

Primark owner Associated British Foods expects full-year sales to rise four per cent

Travelodge's 'super rooms' boost revenue

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

TRAVELODGE yesterday reported boosted revenue in the first half of the year driven by the success of the budget hotel chain's more up-market options.

The firm's "super rooms" and Travelodge Plus brands, which offer additional facilities and extra comfort, helped to drive sales up six per cent to £337.3m in the first half. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation rose by £1.1m to £44.7m.

Super rooms, which have been rolled out in 50 hotels across the UK, account for nearly five per cent of total Travelodge sales two years on from the launch of the concept.

In total, the company opened 10 new hotels in the period, including its latest Travelodge Plus offering in Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Travelodge is targeting more business hubs, key city locations and short-break leisure destinations, the company said yesterday. The company is planning to open 17 hotels by the end of the year, which it expects to create about 300 new jobs.

Travelodge chief executive Peter Gowers said: "It's quite a tough market out there but Travelodge has continued to outperform despite the challenging conditions. We've been investing in greater choice for customers while maintaining our reputation for low prices, helping us attract more and more people looking to make their travel money go further in these uncertain times."

He added: "With all the political and economic uncertainty, we naturally remain cautious about the short-term outlook.

"But in the longer term, the fundamentals for low-cost hotels remain good, and with our clear brand proposition and strong development pipeline, we are well positioned for the future."

Intu shares rise on reports of takeover offer

JAMES WARRINGTON

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SHOPPING centre owner Intu led the FTSE risers yesterday following reports of a potential buyout led by Orion Capital Managers.

Orion, run by private equity tycoon Aref Lahham, is said to be seeking partners for a buyout of the struggling company, which has felt the impact of tough trading conditions for UK retailers.

The firm, which owns the Trafford Centre in Manchester and Lakeside in Essex, suffered an 18 per cent decline in rental income in the first half, while pre-tax loss fell to almost £900m, prompting the firm to cancel its interim dividend.

The mooted buyout, first reported by the Sunday Times, sent shares soaring as much as 22 per cent in early trading, before settling up 10.47 per cent at 40.32p.

Intu's share price has plunged more than 60 per cent since the start of the year, as retailers have been forced to close swathes of stores and launch company voluntary agreements to slash rent. It fell out of the FTSE 250 index last week.

Intu is also battling to pay down its £4.7bn debt pile. Analysts have warned it is at risk of breaching covenants on more than £1bn of this debt as the value of its assets continues to fall.

A takeover bid would likely resolve the debt problem, according to the report. Orion holds a 9.2 per cent stake in Intu, and would need to work with other shareholders, such as Peel Holdings, which holds a 27.3 per cent stake, to secure a buyout.

Renewed interest in Intu would come after a consortium led by major investor John Whittaker dropped a £2.9bn bid last November. The consortium's U-turn followed a similar abandoned £3.4bn bid by rival Hammerson in April last year.

Intu declined to comment on reports of a private equity buyout.

Hong Kong anti-government protesters have faced police violence

Tourism plunges amid Hong Kong protests

SEBASTIAN MCCARTHY

@SebMcCarthy

HONG Kong suffered a sharp annual fall in tourist visitors last month as mass demonstrations took their toll on the city's economy.

Tourist arrivals in the city slumped year on year by almost 40 per cent in August, financial secretary Paul Chan wrote in a blog post.

Visitor numbers have been sinking amid violent clashes between police and protesters, which were sparked earlier this summer by a controversial extradition bill.

The standoff between authorities and protesters has rocked parts of the region's economy, which is home to some of the world's biggest financial and business groups.

According to data compiled by Bloomberg, the drop marked the biggest annual decrease since May 2003 when arrivals plummeted in the wake of a disease outbreak.

Chan said the unrest had "severely damaged Hong Kong's international image" as a safe city for trade, aviation and finance.

"The most worrying thing is that the road ahead is not easily going to turn any better," he added.

Blazing success: British cannabis firm picks up £7.8m in funding round

ANNA MENIN

@annafmenin

A LEADING British cannabis company has raised £7.8m in a series A funding round as it prepares to launch an "aggressive strategy" to dominate the budding industry across Europe.

Cannaray, which manufactures medical cannabis and consumer cannabidiol (CBD) products, also announced that it had bought Therismos – a company with licences to import, handle and distribute controlled drugs in the UK and across the EU.

The company has partnered with Newey, the largest horticulture firm in the UK, to develop growing facilities and a pharmaceutical research base to "explore new cannabis-based medical formulations". It is also applying for a cannabis cultivation licence – only two of which have ever been granted before.

The global medical cannabis market is set to be worth over £60bn by 2026, while the CBD consumer sector is predicted to hit £20bn by 2024.

Medical cannabis has been a hotly-debated topic in the UK recently. It has been legal for the NHS to prescribe cannabis since November last year, but campaigners have argued that under current rules the drug remains almost impossible to access.

Cannaray said it is planning to raise additional capital to fund the production of medical cannabis and expand into markets beyond the UK – beginning with Germany and Poland later this year.

Chief executive officer Scott Maguire said the firm wants to become "not only the leading European cannabis player, but eventually one of the global leaders in research and development of improved cannabis therapies".

Eddie Stobart suspended its shares and said its chief executive was standing down last month after an accounting error

Eddie Stobart says it has received buyout interest

JAMES BOOTH

@Jamesdbooth1

TROUBLED trucking company Eddie Stobart said yesterday it had received a preliminary approach about a possible acquisition by its third-largest shareholder Dbay Advisors.

Last month, Eddie Stobart suspended trading of its shares and announced its chief executive Alex Laffey was standing down with immediate effect after it discovered a multi-million-pound accounting error.

Yesterday it said it had "received a preliminary expression of interest from Dbay" in relation to a "possible offer to be made by funds managed by Dbay" for the company.

It cautioned that there was no certainty an offer would be made, or if it was made, what its terms would be.

A company statement at the time of the error's discovery said the full impact was "unclear", but it is "likely to be significantly lower than anticipated".

It added: "The board is applying a more prudent approach to revenue recognition, re-assessing the recoverability of certain receivables, as well as considering the appropriateness of certain provisions."

The trucking company delayed its half-year results to investigate the error which it said could hit adjusted operating profit by £2m.

It said it had hoped to publish its half-year results in early September and it said it would review its dividend policy as a result of the error.

Embattled fund manager Neil Woodford owns a 22.9 per cent stake in the company.

Dbay owns a 10.1 per cent stake in the logistics group, whose brands include Biforce, Logistics People and Speedy Freight, according to data from Refinitiv Eikon.

Dbay did not respond to a request for comment.

NAVIGATING YOUR PENSION AND THE LIFETIME ALLOWANCE

WILL YOUR PENSION SAVINGS EXCEED £1M?

CITY A.M. EVENTS

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OUR SPEAKERS

THOMAS SALTER, **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NETWEALTH**
MATT CONRADI, **HEAD OF CLIENT ADVISORY, NETWEALTH**
CHRISTIAN MAY, **CITY A.M. EDITOR**

THE DISCUSSION

Having a strategy for when and how to draw from your pension is essential. Weighing up your objectives between maximising income in retirement and passing wealth on to the next generation will help define the appropriate strategy for you.

Our panel of experts will help you to understand how to optimise your pension savings.

During the evening we will:
• Look at the impact the LTA charges could have on your pension
• Consider the strategies for navigating the LTA in accumulation and drawdown
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JOIN US

Tuesday 24th September
Registration 6.30 pm
Discussion 7-8 pm
Drinks and canapés 8-9 pm

LOCATION

Andaz London, 40 Liverpool St,
London EC2M 7QN

To register your interest in this event, please visit www.cityam.com/event/netwealth. Places are limited and subject to availability.
This event is for professionals only, with minimum investable assets of £100k

BUBBLING OVER

Josh Martin meets the English sparkling wine producer beating Champagne at its own game

THE NYETIMBER estate is toastworthy: tree-lined country lanes give way to a manicured driveway, revealing the lovingly restored tasting room. The medieval estate's garden in full-bloom complete with fountains.

The weather is, however, nothing to celebrate. I'm greeted with umbrellas and wellies. Another roaring British summer.

The scene encapsulates what the owner of the Sussex winery, Eric Heerema, is up against. No matter the history, lush landscapes and awards, fickle English weather is forever teasing the idea that the UK is a wine-producer which can stand on its own two feet.

We walk through the vineyard and I regret not bringing a coat. I certainly don't feel as though I'm in a romanticised wine region of the world as you would in Bordeaux, or Tuscany. But it is the ground beneath our feet that is setting English sparkling wine on an award-winning trajectory.

The terroir (soil to you and I) is very similar to that of the Champagne. Heerema explains: "People talk only about chalk, but there are many different types of soil and production on what they call greensand. Both the same soil types are in the south east of England and here at Nyetimber."

The Sussex climate – even as I imagine proper summer across the Channel – is actually similar to Champagne.

"Because of the cool climate there is something that we all share: the freshness and fruitiness of the wine, it is less dry, which appeals to me."

The appeal is not limited to Heerema, who swapped running an investment company for running Nyetimber in 2006. The Cuvees and Prestige Cuvees have gone toe-to-toe with the world-famous Champagne houses in blind taste tests and been judged the pick of the bunch – by Parisian judges, in fact.

It isn't just French champagne quaffers heaping praise on the Sussex winery. Tom Lloyd-Jones, who runs English Wine Adventures, says the awards reinvigorated English wine in the eyes of British drinkers. "Nyetimber winning awards, beating Champagne, by French judges no less, was a real game-changer for the English wine industry," Lloyd-Jones says. The enthusiast has only been running tours for just over a year, but a steady stream of tourists and Londoners paying to spend a day among the vines is another sign of things to come for the industry.

"Come back in five years and you'll be like, 'What's with all these people?'" he predicts, with the industry wanting to emulate wine tourism markets such as Australia where it is key to a resurgent rural economy.

Convincing locals may be easier than visitors to England – of the record 13.2m English bottles produced last year, only around 200,000 were exported. Whether you frame that ratio as a patriotic domestic market looking to buy local, or a hesitant snobbishness from continental consumers depends on your outlook.

Back at Nyetimber, Heerema has loftier goals: "To create a global British luxury brand," he explains. When I suggest other, perhaps better-known English labels may rival Nyetimber in that regard, Heerema insists his company has no rivals, at least not on this side of the Channel.

Craftsmanship takes time and he admits Nyetimber, after 13 years in his ownership, is yet to make a profit – a challenge Heerema thinks will be achieved in "the next few years".

Instead of chasing a quick return, Nyetimber invested to expand from 16 to 260 hectares of vines. That now means around 1m bottles can be made in a good year, although, as we pass rain-covered vines, it will take an Indian summer to beat 2018's harvest.

It also invested in quality control, maintaining itself as a single-estate producer, so no grapes or juice can be brought in from elsewhere. The payoff is control and knowledge of the whole production cycle, and it doesn't hurt the branding either. As a result, its Prestige Cuvee in Harvey Nichols commands the same price as Dom Perignon. Heerema also cites the financial crisis to explain why, when side-by-side, you would opt for his bottle over one from France. He calls it "the emancipation of Champagne drinkers".

In the depths of the recession, bottles of Bolly were seen as ostentatious, which led to many opting for less-obviously prestigious tipples.

"Prosecco was the first one to benefit and now people have a new alternative... English sparkling wine," he says.

FEATURE

We can't afford to be inefficient – we don't have extra doctors to pick up the slack

LYDIA YARLOTT ON THE NHS CRISIS
PAGE 18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Ten Lifestyle gets share price boost as it lifts forecast

JAMES WARRINGTON

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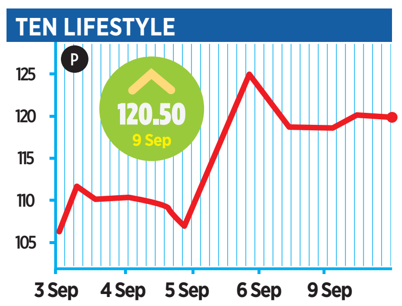
SHARES in Ten Lifestyle closed up 4.78 per cent yesterday after the concierge firm said it expected annual loss to be narrower than previously forecast.

In a trading update ahead of its full-year results, Ten predicted net revenue to come in line with expectations, and forecast an adjusted earnings loss ahead of market expectations.

The London-headquartered firm, which offers a premium concierge service to high net-worth clients, also said it expects net cash of £12m at the end of the year.

Brokers at Peel Hunt said 2020 looked to be an "exciting year" for Ten, which will hold £2m more cash than expected.

In June, Ten secured a second contract with HSBC to run concierge services in Singapore, after winning its Jade service last year.



London's 4Bio raises first tranche of $150m advanced therapies fund

ANNA MENIN

@annafmenin

LONDON-BASED venture capital firm 4Bio yesterday completed the first round of fundraising for a new fund focused on the advanced therapies sector, which uses stem cells, genes and tissues to treat chronic medical conditions.

4Bio said the first tranche had attracted over $50m (£40.6m) of capital. The firm is hoping to raise $150m of capital for the fund, which will be known as 4Bio Ventures II, before a final close in the second half of 2020.

The fund will invest in up to 12 private firms developing advanced therapies, focusing on what it called "areas of unmet need", and without any geographical restrictions.

4Bio has been backing biotech companies since 2010, and has supported 29 firms in the sector since then.

"Advanced therapies are the future of medicine," said 4Bio managing partner Dmitry Kuzmin, adding the fund would help "scientists, academics and innovative biotech companies as they work to create effective, reasonable and sustainable advanced therapies that could cure chronic disease".

"

SPORT

There is a growing belief that they could reach a first major tournament in Euro 2020

WHY ENGLAND SHOULD NOT TAKE TONIGHT'S OPPONENTS KOSOVO LIGHTLY

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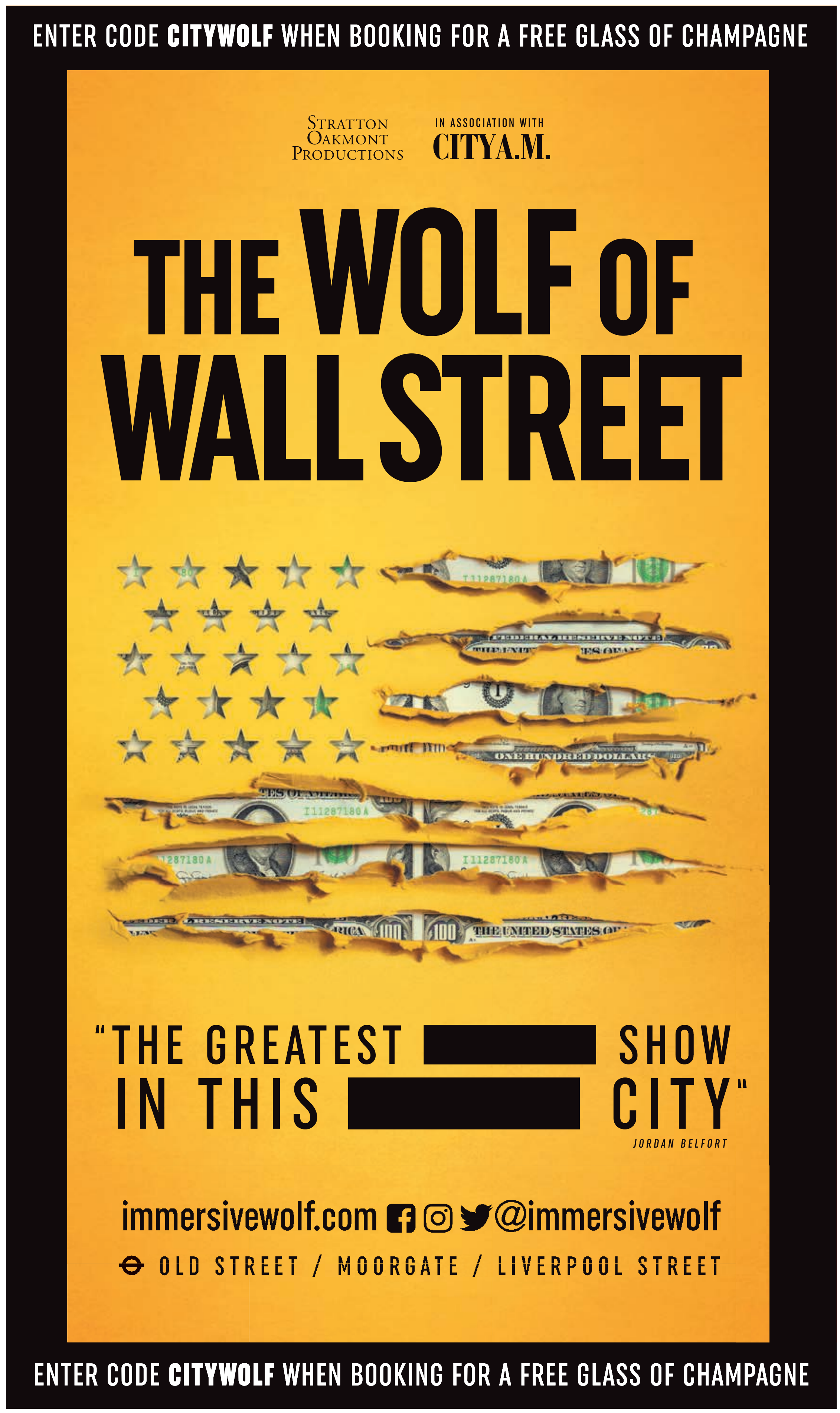
CITY A.M.



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LONDON REPORT

Blue-chips give up gains after the pound gets boost

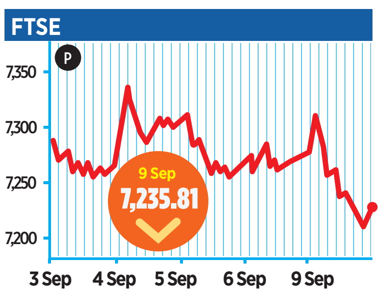
THE FTSE 100 fell yesterday as the pound ploughed ahead after unexpectedly robust economic data and as no-deal Brexit worries tempered, leaving internationally-focused stocks in the dumps.

The blue-chip index lost 0.6 per cent to 7,235.81 points, shedding earlier gains and lagging its European peers, due to steep falls in pharmaceutical shares **Astrazeneca**, **Glaxosmithkline**, and consumer goods giant **Unilever**.

The FTSE 250 index dipped 0.1 per cent, at 19,678.45, though losses were pared thanks to a 10.4 per cent surge in **Intu Properties** after the Times reported that private equity firm Orion Capital Managers was looking to buy the shopping centre operator.

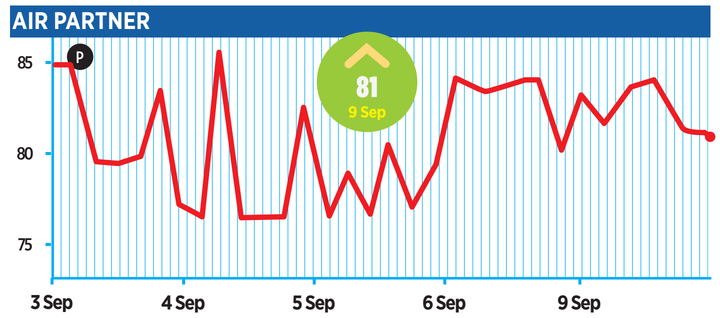
"An unsettled UK political and economic landscape could be with us for some time," Blackrock analysts wrote in their weekly note.

"Six months ago, a negotiated deal looked most likely; now, the then-extreme outcomes – no-deal or a new referendum – look to have become more plausible."

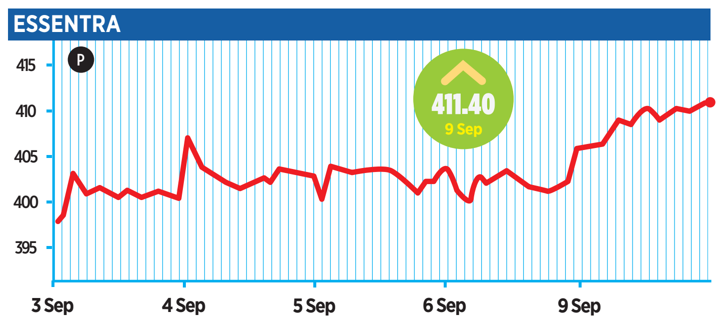


BEST OF THE BROKERS

To appear in Best of the Brokers, email your research to notes@cityam.com



Investors in aviation services group Air Partner were cheered yesterday as the firm managed to fly above what it called "challenging" market conditions with stronger than expected profit. Liberum analysts said the firm's fundamentals remained attractive, and gave it a "Buy" rating with a 115p target price.



Essentra is heading to Spain to get away from the partner and kids and shacking up with a handsome young Spaniard called Nekicesa. With the takeover, it thinks the packaging division can be a big player, and is on track for eight to 10 per cent margins by 2021. Peel Hunt reiterated a "Buy" rating , with a 500p target price.

NEW YORK REPORT

Wall St flat on stimulus hopes

INCREASED expectations of stimulus from central banks around the world yesterday were offset by losses in technology and healthcare shares, leaving the major US indices treading water.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 38.05 points, or 0.14 per cent, to 26,835.51, the S&P 500 lost 0.28 point, or 0.01 per cent, to 2,978.43 and Nasdaq dropped 15.64 points, or 0.19 per cent, to 8,087.44.

"The market is absorbing those gains from last week, and… is in a wait-and-see regarding the European Central Bank meeting," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial in Newark, New Jersey.

Amgen fell 2.6 per cent after analysts raised questions about data on the company's lung cancer drug.

AT&T gained 1.5 per cent after shareholder Elliott Management disclosed a $3.2bn (£2.6bn) stake in the company and pushed for changes.

Boeing fell 1.2 per cent after it suspended load testing of its new widebody 777X aircraft over the weekend as media reports said a cargo door failed in a ground stress test.

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Joanna Munro has been appointed global chief investment officer of HSBC Global Asset Management. Based in London, Joanna will take over from Chris Cheetham at the end of September, reporting directly to Nicolas Moreau, global chief executive officer. Chris is retiring after more than four decades in the investment industry. Joanna steps into the role with more than 30 years' experience of delivering strong results in a diverse number of roles within asset management. She is currently global head of stewardship and fiduciary governance and chairperson of HSBC Global Asset Management UK. Having joined HSBC Global Asset Management as global chief investment officer of HSBC Investments in October 2005, Joanna has served as head of product and, more recently, chief executive officer of the business' Asia-Pacific operations. In addition to her work at HSBC Global Asset Management, Joanna is a non-executive director of the Investment Association in the UK and a founding member of the Diversity Project, where she initiated the Early Careers Workstream. Prior to that, she was a non-executive director of the CFA UK and a member of its advisory council.

SIA PARTNERS

Global independent consulting firm Sia Partners has announced three key hires for its financial services, growth & innovation and transformation practices. Alastair Harvey joins the growth & innovation practice as an associate partner from artificial intelligence firm Cortexica where he was chief revenue officer. Will Sillar joins as an associate partner with engineering, large-scale project management, growth strategy and digital transformation expertise. Julian Holmes joins Sia Partners' transformation practice also as an associate partner. Julian was one of the founders of the Deloitte Workforce Analytics unit, establishing a multi-million-pound business with a strong market presence and reputation.

FXD CAPITAL

Justin Meadows has been named non-executive director of money broker and deposit specialist FXD Capital. Justin is the founder and former chief executive of NEX Treasury (formerly Mytreasury), an award-winning platform that connects a global community of treasurers, banks and money market funds. NEX Treasury was a division of NEX Group, formerly ICAP's electronic FX and fixed-income business which in 2018 was acquired by CME for £3.9bn. FXD Capital was founded in 2018 by Chris Huddleston and Bobby Jackson. FXD works with corporates, institutions, government agencies and not-for-profits by helping clients to reduce counterparty risk, enhance liquidity and achieve better returns on their cash deposits.

To appear in CITYMOVES please email your career updates and pictures to citymoves@cityam.com

IN BRIEF

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER REVEALS IRAN NUCLEAR SITE

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday said that Tehran had been developing nuclear weapons at a secret site in Abadeh in Iran. In a hastily-convened press conference, one week before a general election, Netanyahu said: "In this site, Iran conducted experiments to develop nuclear weapons", showing an aerial picture of several small buildings, including their coordinates, that he said were taken at the Abadeh facility late in June. "When Iran realised that we uncovered the site, here's what they did," he said, showing a picture from July in which the buildings no longer appeared. "They destroyed the site. They just wiped it out." It was the first time that Netanyahu – who is facing a serious challenge to his 10-year rule – had identified the site. His comments came a day after Reuters revealed that the International Atomic Energy Agency found traces of uranium at a different site pointed to by Netanyahu last year.

WHICH URGES CAR MAKERS TO RECALL FAULTY MODELS

Some of the UK's most popular cars are among the least reliable and could leave motorists facing mechanical failures and potentially high repair bills, new research has found. Consumer rights group Which said it has uncovered "inherent flaws" in some vehicles made by car makers, including Nissan, Seat and Tesla, and called on manufacturers to be upfront and recall affected vehicles. The survey of nearly 44,000 members of the public found owners dogged by issues, including faulty batteries and suspension systems among the most common problems. It also identified frequently-occurring faults with some Ford and BMW models that are no longer in production. One of the UK's bestselling cars, Nissan's second-generation Qashqai, had the highest breakdown rate of all surveyed cars. A fifth of owners said they had had to replace their car's battery in the past year – over four times the average rate for cars of the same age.

FINTECH ADVISED BY FORMER VISA BOSS TO LAUNCH CARD

Fintech firm Currensea has opened the wait list for its new travel money card, the first in the UK to be linked directly to users' bank accounts. The card is designed to work as an extension of a current account, allowing customers to spend money abroad without having to open a new account. There will be no transaction or withdrawal fees, and the fintech says it will offer "competitive exchange rates". Currensea is backed by a team of angel investors, and is advised by a former UK managing director of Amazon and ex-chief executive of Visa UK Marc O'Brien. Several challenger banks including Monzo, Starling and Revolut have launched cards with no transaction fees abroad and competitive exchange rates, but all require customers to open an account with them. Revolut and Monzo charge customers a fee if they withdraw more than £200 worth of cash abroad in a month. Starling Bank does not charge for withdrawals.

US charges professor in Huawei fraud dispute

JAMES WARRINGTON

@j_a_warrington

US PROSECUTORS have filed charges against a Chinese professor who allegedly stole technology from a Silicon Valley firm to give to Huawei.

According to the complaint, Bo Mao entered into an agreement with an unnamed California tech company to obtain its circuit board, claiming it was for academic research.

But prosecutors have accused an unidentified Chinese telecoms group of trying to steal the technology, saying Bo was complicit in the plan.

Sources told Reuters the Chinese company in question was Huawei, while court documents also indicate the case is related to the embattled tech firm.

Bo was arrested in Texas last month, before being released on $100,000 (£82,000) bail. He has since pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring to commit wire fraud.

The case marks the latest run-in between Huawei and US President Donald Trump's administration, which has accused the Chinese firm of carrying out state-sponsored spying.

While Huawei itself has not been charged, it described the case against Bo as "selective prosecution".

FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7235.81	19678.45	3976.16	26835.51	8087.44	2978.43
46.53	27.07	22.02	38.05	15.64	0.28

£					
/€	1.1169	0.0039	€/$	1.1047	0.0018
/$	1.2343	0.0066	€/£	0.8949	0.0032
/¥	132.35	1.0650	€/¥	118.44	0.5314

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 2.000 20	101.25	0.05	102.3	101.2
Tsy 3.750 20	103.19	0.03	105.9	103.2
Tsy 4.750 20	102.07	-0.01	106.0	102.0
Tsy 2.500 20	355.05	0.02	361.4	354.9
Tsy 8.000 21	113.13	0.07	119.6	112.8
Tsy 4.000 22	108.95	0.15	110.8	108.9
Tsy 1.875 22	116.87	0.26	118.3	115.5
Tsy 0.500 22	100.34	0.21	100.7	97.7
Tsy 2.250 23	107.34	0.32	107.9	104.7
Tsy 2.500 24	375.70	0.45	377.9	358.7
Tsy 0.125 24	115.11	0.44	115.8	110.9
Tsy 5.000 25	125.01	0.44	126.1	122.1
Tsy 1.250 27	139.28	0.88	141.1	128.4
Tsy 4.250 27	130.96	0.71	132.8	122.6
Tsy 6.000 28	149.85	0.72	152.2	140.5
Tsy 0.125 29	132.54	1.00	134.7	118.8
Tsy 4.125 30	397.52	1.03	404.2	355.2
Tsy 4.750 30	145.13	0.89	147.9	132.1
Tsy 1.250 32	162.89	1.15	167.7	144.1
Tsy 4.250 32	143.07	1.02	146.4	128.5
Tsy 0.125 36	155.39	1.57	162.5	133.4
Tsy 4.250 36	151.51	1.31	155.7	133.1
Tsy 4.750 38	166.70	1.60	171.8	144.9
Tsy 0.625 40	176.31	1.97	185.7	152.8
Tsy 4.500 42	170.76	1.99	176.7	145.9
Tsy 3.500 45	153.16	2.23	159.0	128.0
Tsy 4.250 46	174.29	2.33	181.0	145.7
Tsy 4.025 49	181.05	2.47	188.9	150.0
Tsy 0.500 50	205.85	2.84	222.9	173.7
Tsy 0.250 52	202.82	3.11	221.1	168.8

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	561.2	-10.8	636.2	443.9
Cobham	159.7	-2.1	168.3	96.8
Meggitt	636.8	-6.2	646.2	458.0
QinetiQ Group	286.6	-1.0	312.4	267.0
Rolls-Royce Holdi	786.4	-0.6	997.4	730.0
Senior	204.0	-0.2	323.0	185.4
Ultra Electronics	2206.0	-16.0	2292.0	1232.0

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bank of Georgia G	1331.0	1.0	1878.8	1310.0
Barclays	140.8	0.7	178.9	136.2
Close Brothers Gr	1342.0	12.0	1660.0	1227.0
CYBG	116.3	3.0	336.8	110.0
HSBC Holdings	607.0	6.0	682.0	580.9
Lloyds Banking Gr	50.2	0.1	66.6	48.6
Metro Bank	273.0	1.4	3050.0	261.6
Royal Bank of Sco	192.8	4.7	270.4	177.7
Standard Chartere	659.2	10.2	736.8	519.8
TBC Bank Group	1220.0	0.0	1728.0	1188.0

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (A.G.)	571.0	-5.0	975.0	567.0
Britvic	861.0	-19.5	956.0	745.0
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2715.0	-96.0	3074.0	2244.0
Diageo	3377.5	-81.0	3625.5	2523.5

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda Internation	4782.0	-26.0	5447.7	4564.0
Elementis	157.9	4.1	245.8	129.8
Johnson Matthey	3114.0	14.0	3673.0	2620.0
Sirius Minerals	10.5	0.2	30.6	8.1
Synthomer	326.6	10.0	520.4	279.8
Victrex plc	2168.0	22.0	3408.0	1845.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	225.0	1.0	295.0	194.2
CRH	2726.0	-17.0	2786.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	615.0	-1.0	1104.0	512.0
Ibstock	217.2	-0.2	262.0	193.1

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Marshalls	666.0	-8.0	696.0	412.2
Polypipe Group	388.2	-2.0	453.8	307.8

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	185.8	3.0	218.0	150.1
Drax Group	271.8	3.4	427.2	260.2
SSE	1139.5	-10.5	1260.5	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQ.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	1976.0	-42.0	2094.0	1237.0
Morgan Advanced M	260.4	1.8	338.8	237.0
Oxford Instrument	1304.0	4.0	1424.0	842.0
Renishaw	3746.0	48.0	5105.0	3368.0
Spectris	2307.0	-38.0	2898.0	1966.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUM.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aberforth Smaller	1190.0	6.0	1356.0	1114.0
Alliance Trust	802.0	1.0	838.0	672.0
Apax Global Alpha	155.0	-1.5	159.0	127.0
AVI Global Trust	754.0	2.0	781.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford J	810.0	10.0	866.0	663.0
Bankers Inv Trust	950.0	-4.0	970.0	766.0
BBGI SICAV S.A. (	157.0	0.5	168.0	142.5
BlackRock Smaller	1396.0	-8.0	1482.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smalle	1362.0	2.0	1495.0	1220.0
Caledonia Investm	3040.0	-5.0	3110.0	2650.0
City of London In	409.5	-4.0	431.5	376.0
Edinburgh Inv Tru	558.0	1.0	684.0	535.0
F&C Investment Tr	713.0	0.0	731.0	616.0
Fidelity China Sp	222.0	0.0	250.0	182.4
Fidelity European	252.0	0.0	257.5	202.0
Fidelity Special	256.0	0.0	275.0	220.0
Finsbury Growth &	941.0	-17.0	966.0	740.0
GCP Infrastructur	126.2	0.0	130.8	122.4
Genesis Emerging	779.0	6.0	783.0	615.0
Greencoat UK Wind	139.4	-0.6	143.2	124.4
HarbourVest Globa	1708.0	-2.0	1726.0	1326.0
Herald Investment	1326.0	8.0	1364.0	1055.0
HGCapital Trust	237.0	13.5	237.3	175.0
HICL Infrastructu	165.0	-0.2	170.1	149.9
International Pub	163.0	0.4	165.4	146.8
JPMorgan American	478.0	1.0	494.5	386.5
JPMorgan Emerging	1006.0	0.0	1066.0	759.0
JPMorgan Indian I	707.0	3.0	790.0	566.0
JPMorgan Japanese	450.0	0.0	463.0	367.0
Jupiter European	850.0	2.0	875.0	666.0
Law Debenture Cor	568.0	-10.0	620.0	534.0
Mercantile Invest	205.5	0.5	215.7	168.0
Monks Inv Trust	925.0	-3.0	964.0	710.0
Murray Internatio	1190.0	6.0	1208.0	1056.0
NB Global Floatin	89.0	-0.2	93.0	87.6
NextEnergy Solar	121.0	0.5	124.5	109.0
Pantheon Internat	2290.0	10.0	2330.0	1955.0
Perpetual Income	293.5	0.5	358.0	284.5
Pershing Square H	1564.0	8.0	1580.0	990.0
Personal Assets T	42700.0	0.0	43150.0	38900.0
Polar Capital Tec	1418.0	-8.0	1500.0	1066.0
RIT Capital Partn	2160.0	15.0	2166.6	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	731.0	1.0	1282.0	635.0
Schroder Asia Pac	440.0	-2.0	469.5	379.0
Scottish Inv Trus	825.0	0.0	875.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	520.5	-2.0	568.5	441.4
Sequoia Economic	115.0	0.0	117.6	106.0
Smithson Investme	1270.0	-10.0	1288.0	1000.2
Syncona Limited N	245.0	-7.5	302.5	213.5
Temple Bar Inv Tr	1204.0	-2.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Emergin	788.0	4.0	829.0	649.0
The Renewables In	129.0	0.0	133.2	109.3
TR Property Inv T	424.5	-0.5	430.0	353.5
Vietnam Enterpris	493.0	-2.0	497.5	421.5
VinaCapital Vietn	350.0	-1.5	357.5	318.0
Witan Inv Trust	215.5	0.0	225.5	189.6
Woodford Patient	43.8	0.6	91.0	40.1
Worldwide Healthc	2705.0	-40.0	2915.0	2325.0

FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1142.0	-3.5	1164.5	756.2
3i Infrastructure	301.5	0.5	303.0	240.3
AJ Bell	407.0	0.5	477.0	220.0
Allied Minds	57.7	0.6	84.2	37.3
Amigo Holdings	72.2	-0.2	297.5	70.7
Arrow Global Grou	204.4	7.1	273.0	167.2
ASA International	380.0	-2.0	496.0	320.0
Ashmore Group	454.4	-3.8	542.5	341.2
Brewin Dolphin Ho	309.6	-0.6	358.0	287.6
Charter Court Fin	273.5	7.0	375.0	228.8
City of London In	414.5	-3.5	440.0	360.0
CMC Markets	98.0	0.0	167.6	77.4
Coats Group	71.9	0.1	91.3	69.8
Georgia Capital	1002.0	-12.0	1260.0	941.0
Hargreaves Lansdo	1972.0	-8.0	2433.0	1633.0
IG Group Holdings	563.4	2.6	888.0	474.8
IntegraFin Holdin	392.0	-0.5	406.1	269.0
Intermediate Capi	1406.0	5.0	1429.0	899.0
International Per	103.8	-1.2	233.6	87.0
Investec	454.4	9.5	561.0	400.7
IP Group	69.5	4.2	131.2	55.7
John Laing Group	357.6	-1.2	402.0	296.2
JTC	390.0	-19.0	440.0	287.0
Jupiter Fund Mana	352.5	-0.4	432.0	287.6
Liontrust Asset M	760.0	10.0	816.0	532.0
LMS Capital	55.0	-1.0	57.8	44.0
London Finance &	38.5	0.0	42.5	37.5
London Stock Exch	7080.0	-242.0	7420.0	3867.0
Man Group	170.7	-1.8	183.0	126.8
OneSavings Bank	332.2	7.8	447.4	313.6
Paragon Banking G	451.4	3.2	478.8	379.2
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	707.4	-1.2	1647.0	495.0
Provident Financi	403.7	17.9	665.8	356.0
Quilter	130.4	2.9	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2325.0	-15.0	2570.0	2085.0
Real Estate Credi	166.0	0.0	175.5	163.0
Record	31.2	0.0	42.1	27.3
River and Mercant	255.0	-8.0	330.0	212.0
S&U	2150.0	50.0	2605.0	1767.5
Sanne Group	572.0	7.0	752.0	450.0
Schroders	2881.0	34.0	3210.0	2334.0
Standard Life Abe	255.6	4.1	370.3	224.9
TP ICAP	314.0	4.7	324.5	267.2
Walker Crips Grou	24.5	-0.7	38.0	22.3
XPS Pensions Grou	115.0	-0.5	175.5	95.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Group	169.1	1.4	264.7	158.9
TalkTalk Telecom	103.5	-1.2	137.0	96.6
Telecom Plus	1134.0	4.0	1528.0	1018.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	2006.0	-6.0	2476.0	1006.0
Morrison (Wm) Sup	187.4	-0.1	267.2	176.9
Ocado Group	1342.5	-21.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury (J)	200.8	-0.8	324.0	177.1
SSP Group	696.0	-12.0	744.4	615.1
Tesco	230.6	-1.9	253.0	189.6
UDG Healthcare Pu	779.0	-14.5	821.0	551.0

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Associated Britis	2305.0	-49.0	2638.0	2041.0
Bakkavor Group	107.4	-4.0	172.4	93.3
Cranswick	2802.0	12.0	3454.0	2472.0
Greencore Group	220.7	-4.3	230.0	162.9
Hilton Food Group	978.0	7.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	721.8	-15.2	800.4	633.4
Unilever	5063.0	-127.0	5324.0	3931.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1616.0	1.0	2157.0	1510.5

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Centrica	67.8	-0.1	155.6	64.6
National Grid	820.0	-21.0	889.2	748.7
Pennon Group	730.6	-15.2	792.8	684.2
Severn Trent	1986.5	-37.5	2153.0	1770.0
United Utilities	768.2	-16.0	873.6	682.4

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Smith (DS)	348.9	0.2	491.4	292.2
Smiths Group	1675.0	-11.0	1699.5	1279.5
Smurfit Kappa Gro	2600.0	-8.0	3190.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	479.8	3.4	662.0	448.8

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Auto Trader Group	517.0	-2.2	606.0	388.5
B&M European Valu	374.3	-1.1	426.3	278.6
Card Factory	157.2	-1.7	209.0	151.2
Dixons Carphone	118.4	3.5	178.6	104.9
Dunelm Group	855.5	-4.0	981.0	482.8
Inchcape	618.0	4.5	695.5	486.6
JD Sports Fashion	632.6	-7.6	650.0	318.5
Just Eat	760.0	-22.8	812.0	533.8
Kingfisher	202.0	4.2	266.2	188.0
Marks & Spencer G	196.1	0.4	299.1	180.4

MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers	%
Intu Properties 40.3	10.5
Aston Martin Lagon 578.2	7.8
IP Group 69.5	6.4
HGCapital Trust 237.0	6.0
Provident Financia 403.7	4.6
Funding Circle Hol 110.4	4.4
Hastings Group Hol 198.0	3.9
Premier Oil 85.0	3.5
Synthomer 326.6	3.2
Dixons Carphone 118.4	3.1

Fallers	%
Daejan Holdings 4715.0	-7.9
Acacia Mining 237.6	-5.7
Hochschild Mining 198.6	-5.3
Hikma Pharmaceutic 1918.0	-3.9
Bakkavor Group 107.4	-3.6
Rentokil Initial 448.6	-3.6
AstraZeneca 7004.0	-3.5
Coca-Cola HBC AG 2715.0	-3.4
Assura 69.3	-3.4
London Stock Excha 7080.0	-3.3

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Next	6040.0	-90.0	6180.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Grou	234.0	1.2	242.4	110.0
Sports Direct Int	259.0	3.4	362.1	214.0
Ted Baker	1000.0	1.0	2378.0	800.0
Vivo Energy	122.4	-1.4	145.0	96.0
WH Smith	2028.0	6.0	2186.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMETN & S.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	69.3	-2.4	71.8	52.4
Convatec Group	174.5	0.2	239.0	118.6
Mediclinic Intern	351.9	-2.1	490.8	293.4
NMC Health	2826.0	60.0	3704.0	1801.5
Smith & Nephew	1934.0	-42.5	1990.0	1258.0

HHOLD GDS & HOME CONSTR.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Developme	594.4	-18.6	663.0	434.0
Bellway	3036.0	9.0	3226.0	2419.0
Berkeley Group Ho	3945.0	-35.0	4085.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Group	1059.0	4.0	1177.0	828.0
Countryside Prope	306.6	-3.2	353.2	270.0
Crest Nicholson H	360.0	3.2	404.8	296.4
McCarthy & Stone	139.8	2.7	143.6	117.4
Persimmon	1898.5	-13.0	2471.0	1836.0

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Reckitt Benckiser	6316.0	-73.0	7155.0	5593.0
Redrow	589.0	-7.0	674.6	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	149.6	-0.9	192.3	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	721.0	-1.0	925.5	654.0
Hill & Smith Hold	1170.0	-2.0	1306.0	902.5
IMI	1020.5	0.5	1155.0	870.0
Melrose Industrie	200.2	-3.2	226.2	146.3
RHI Magnesita N.V	4240.0	10.0	5000.0	3318.0
Rotork	317.1	0.6	340.8	235.7
Spirax-Sarco Engi	8110.0	-15.0	9400.0	5900.0
Weir Group	1525.0	37.0	1814.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS & MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	492.6	-6.9	709.4	442.1
Ferrexpo	189.4	-5.6	301.3	143.5

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	318.0	-5.0	324.8	207.0
Clarkson	2270.0	15.0	2860.0	1878.0
Fisher (James) &	2030.0	-25.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	222.3	-2.0	489.0	188.4

NON LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Group	2064.0	-9.0	2300.0	1932.5
Beazley	590.5	4.5	598.0	492.6
Direct Line Insur	284.7	2.3	366.5	279.9
Hastings Group Ho	198.0	7.4	270.0	174.0
Hiscox Limited (D	1563.0	13.0	1777.0	1418.0
Lancashire Holdin	703.5	-3.5	725.5	530.0
RSA Insurance Gro	521.0	-1.8	634.0	496.6
Sabre Insurance G	265.5	0.5	294.0	249.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	374.4	10.4	497.0	352.3
Legal & General G	236.4	4.3	291.2	216.7
Phoenix Group Hol	659.7	9.2	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1439.5	35.0	1814.5	1326.0
St James's Place	968.2	-0.8	1154.5	914.0

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4Imprint Group	2890.0	0.0	2940.0	1800.0
Ascential	380.2	-5.6	434.6	337.2
Bloomsbury Publis	236.0	-2.0	243.0	190.5
Centaur Media	38.0	-0.5	56.5	34.7
Entertainment One	573.0	-15.0	589.0	336.4
Euromoney Institu	1404.0	4.0	1433.4	1132.0

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Future	1280.0	-40.0	1328.0	410.0
Goco Group	74.9	0.4	104.0	64.6
Haynes Publishing	220.0	0.0	227.0	160.0
Huntsworth	91.8	0.0	123.5	81.0
Informa	844.8	-6.0	892.0	605.8
ITE Group	80.0	2.0	80.9	56.3
ITV	122.4	1.8	162.3	103.6
Moneysupermarket.	375.5	1.0	417.7	264.0
Pearson	859.4	0.4	1027.5	769.2
Reach	88.1	-6.8	94.9	54.6
Relx plc	1915.5	-52.5	2011.0	1491.5
Rightmove	539.0	-4.9	585.1	420.9
STV Group	345.0	-13.0	405.5	318.0
WPP	998.2	14.4	1179.5	800.4

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Acacia Mining	237.6	-14.4	272.8	96.1
Anglo American	1855.4	7.4	2266.0	1464.6
Antofagasta	896.4	3.4	1022.5	727.2
BHP Group	1758.4	-1.0	2049.0	1490.6
Centamin (DI)	139.0	-4.3	152.4	79.8
Fresnillo	696.4	-22.8	1027.5	601.0
Glencore	242.8	1.2	341.5	222.2
Hochschild Mining	198.6	-11.0	227.0	149.1
Kaz Minerals	419.9	-2.7	738.4	380.3
Polymetal Interna	1145.0	-15.5	1208.5	597.2
Rio Tinto	4218.5	-18.5	4976.5	3486.0

MOBILE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	589.0	5.6	608.2	362.8
Vodafone Group	155.5	-0.2	170.9	123.3

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	504.8	3.8	598.3	485.9
Cairn Energy	177.3	4.4	233.6	140.0
Energean Oil & Ga	987.0	-19.0	1082.0	545.0
Premier Oil	85.0	2.9	143.6	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell	2276.5	17.0	2666.0	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell	2267.5	11.5	2705.5	2227.0
Tullow Oil	216.4	4.7	266.3	165.2

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	477.2	1.0	838.5	414.2
Petrofac Ltd.	420.5	4.0	663.4	381.5
Wood Group (John)	394.3	9.6	796.4	357.5

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Group	2232.0	-20.0	2345.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	213.5	-0.5	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	7004.0	-251.0	7533.0	5325.0
Dechra Pharmaceut	2950.0	-86.0	3070.0	2014.0
Genus	2830.0	18.0	2884.0	2098.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1679.2	-36.0	1745.2	1418.0
Hikma Pharmaceuti	1918.0	-77.5	2064.0	1510.5
PureTech Health	279.0	0.0	292.0	157.0

REAL ESTATE INVEST. & SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BMO Commercial Pr	109.8	0.4	147.0	106.0
Capital & Countie	213.8	1.8	279.5	184.9
CLS Holdings	243.0	1.5	255.0	195.4
Daejan Holdings	4715.0	-405.0	6160.0	4715.0
Grainger	245.4	0.8	277.1	205.8
NewRiver REIT	173.0	1.8	264.0	147.6
Safestore Holding	650.0	-15.0	681.0	499.4
Savills	865.5	23.5	957.0	678.5
St. Modwen Proper	414.0	3.5	441.5	365.0
UK Commercial Pro	80.1	0.2	92.7	79.5

REAL ESTATE INVEST. TRUSTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Big Yellow Group	1046.0	-18.0	1074.0	852.5
British Land Comp	517.4	-0.8	625.6	468.3
Derwent London	3076.0	-50.0	3328.0	2761.0

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Great Portland Es	689.2	-11.8	773.6	649.4
Hammerson	246.8	2.2	470.0	203.9
Intu Properties	40.3	3.8	201.5	32.2
Land Securities G	775.8	0.0	936.0	735.4
LondonMetric Prop	208.2	-0.2	215.2	172.7
Primary Health Pr	135.8	-0.8	139.0	106.4
SEGRO	780.0	-9.8	794.8	585.2
Shaftesbury	838.5	-8.0	928.5	739.5
Tritax Big Box Re	140.3	-1.2	159.7	129.0
Unite Group	1027.0	-13.0	1076.0	797.5
Workspace Group	883.0	1.5	1055.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	373.6	0.0	393.4	259.6
Aveva Group	3658.0	-124.0	4170.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1370.0	-5.0	1525.0	952.0
FDM Group (Holdin	764.0	-16.0	1000.0	734.0
Funding Circle Ho	110.4	4.6	440.0	99.0
Kainos Group	443.0	8.0	676.0	366.0
Micro Focus Inter	1081.4	-12.2	2491.6	1051.4
Playtech	396.8	8.8	508.4	360.5
Sage Group	692.8	-18.0	820.4	525.6
Softcat	1001.0	-21.0	1044.0	565.0
Sophos Group	391.4	1.3	520.5	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	797.2	6.8	876.6	691.8
Ashtead Group	2287.0	1.0	2438.0	1586.5
BCA Marketplace	241.8	-0.2	247.0	178.5
Bunzl	2076.0	-6.0	2551.0	1978.5
Capita	136.9	-0.5	150.2	99.9
DCC	7122.0	-8.0	7390.0	5555.0
Diploma	1629.0	-18.0	1662.0	1150.0
Electrocomponents	600.4	1.4	749.4	480.0
Equiniti Group	210.8	-2.2	266.0	186.2
Essentra	411.4	9.0	442.0	325.4
Experian	2575.0	-56.0	2641.0	1728.5
Ferguson	6350.0	-24.0	6556.0	4749.0
G4S	186.2	-0.4	245.8	168.3
Grafton Group Uni	724.0	-11.0	937.0	630.0
Hays	150.8	1.5	212.0	135.7
Homeserve	1160.0	5.0	1263.0	849.0
Howden Joinery Gr	548.8	-2.4	573.4	416.4
Intertek Group	5534.0	-82.0	5962.0	4387.0
Network Internati	579.0	-2.0	628.0	500.0
Pagegroup	414.0	1.6	583.5	407.2
PayPoint	922.0	4.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	448.6	-16.7	468.6	284.8
Robert Walters	544.0	-4.0	475.0	814.0
Serco Group	147.5	-0.6	149.1	84.1
SIG	117.8	-3.5	153.0	102.2
Travis Perkins	1290.5	-5.5	1465.0	970.0

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British American	2895.5	-36.5	3763.0	2375.0
Imperial Brands	2136.0	1.0	2750.0	1846.8

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3603.0	88.0	5000.0	3366.0
Cineworld Group	229.5	2.0	323.6	212.0
Compass Group	2035.0	-61.0	2138.0	1483.0
Domino's Pizza Gr	247.6	5.4	297.2	221.2
EI Group	281.4	0.0	285.0	161.2
FirstGroup	128.5	-0.9	131.6	79.3
Flutter Entertain	7000.0	-2.0	7290.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Group	2132.0	-8.0	2208.0	1480.0
Greene King	839.8	-2.2	850.0	480.0
GVC Holdings	692.4	8.2	1065.0	507.5
InterContinental	5071.0	-52.0	5738.0	3958.4
International Con	423.5	-6.6	694.8	413.5
Marston's	123.2	-3.5	128.0	90.6
Merlin Entertainm	452.0	0.1	453.5	307.1
Millennium & Copt	685.0	5.0	685.0	436.0
Mitchells & Butle	367.0	7.5	378.5	238.0
National Express	429.0	-5.6	439.2	361.4
PPHE Hotel Group	1750.0	0.0	1990.0	1520.0
Rank Group	169.0	-2.0	183.6	135.0
Restaurant Group	128.4	-2.5	221.9	111.9
Stagecoach Group	123.8	-1.2	177.0	115.5
TUI AG Reg Shs (D	848.8	-0.4	1474.0	698.0
Wetherspoon (J.D.	1561.0	-13.0	1624.0	1066.0
Whitbread	4432.0	-21.0	5114.0	4086.0
William Hill	177.3	-0.7	265.5	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3522.0	-88.0	3769.0	2329.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1167.0	-73.0	1500.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	292.0	-3.0	354.5	260.0
Alliance Pharma	67.0	0.5	94.6	60.0
ASOS	2501.0	-7.0	6050.0	2107.0
Blue Prism Group	900.0	-12.5	2575.0	871.5
Camellia	9400.0	0.0	11750.0	9100.0
CareTech Holding	364.0	5.0	406.0	325.0
Central Asia Meta	188.8	1.0	266.5	180.0
Clinigen Group	903.0	-3.0	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	902.0	32.5	1023.0	395.0
Dart Group	735.0	-2.5	997.5	709.5
Diversified Gas &	107.5	0.5	134.0	97.0
Draper Esprit	460.0	-1.0	625.0	445.0
Eland Oil & Gas	122.4	-0.6	134.0	97.0
EMIS Group	1110.0	-12.0	1242.0	864.0
Fevertree Drinks	2316.0	-32.0	3956.0	2070.0
First Derivatives	2310.0	-20.0	4200.0	2050.0
Frontier Develop	1048.0	-16.0	1385.0	740.0
Gamma Communicati	1170.0	5.0	1200.0	688.0
GB Group	560.0	-25.0	631.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1080.0	57.5	1880.0	954.0
Hurricane Energy	44.5	1.5	60.8	38.9
Impax Asset Manag	237.5	2.5	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	343.0	-2.0	475.0	308.0
IQE	50.9	0.8	98.0	47.6
James Halstead	494.0	-14.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service G	172.4	-4.6	182.0	113.6
Keywords Studios	1348.0	-112.0	1954.0	900.0
Learning Technolo	126.6	-2.4	166.5	62.2
M&C Saatchi	205.0	1.0	394.0	201.0
M. P. Evans Group	688.0	1.0	800.0	637.0
Midwich Group	500.0	-4.0	685.0	490.0
Mortgage Advice B	560.0	14.0	720.0	490.0
Naked Wines	253.0	-1.5	420.5	219.0
Next Fifteen Comm	574.0	0.0	658.0	469.0
Nichols	1725.0	25.0	1880.0	1240.0
Numis Corporation	238.0	-4.5	422.0	221.5
Polar Capital Hol	508.0	-6.0	644.0	448.0
Purplebricks Grou	124.0	3.8	268.0	90.0
Redde	119.4	-0.8	196.0	90.0
Renew Holdings	390.0	6.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	600.0	0.0	652.0	415.5
Scapa Group	247.0	-1.5	473.4	157.0
Secure Income Rei	440.0	5.0	441.0	371.0
Serica Energy	118.4	2.4	142.0	74.9
Smart Metering Sy	467.8	8.2	665.0	448.8
Telford Homes	349.0	0.0	430.0	267.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	298.0	0.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	221.0	0.0	232.5	192.2
Young & Co's Brew	1630.0	40.0	1885.0	1322.5
Young & Co's Brew	1150.0	0.0	1235.0	1030.0

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EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AB INBEV	86.06	1.56	92.71	56.32
ADIDAS N	276.95	-1.70	297.95	178.30
AIR LIQUIDE	123.55	-1.75	127.50	101.85
AIRBUS BR	126.84	0.24	133.86	77.50
ALLIANZ	205.80	1.50	218.70	170.50
AMADEUS IT GRP BR-A	67.46	-1.06	82.20	58.06
ASML HLDG	219.15	1.85	219.15	130.12
AXA	21.97	0.41	23.99	18.40
BANCO SANTANDER	3.62	0.09	4.68	3.39
BASF N	62.11	0.78	81.73	55.72
BAYER N	67.11	0.55	79.69	52.00
BBVA	4.60	0.11	5.79	4.19
BMW	63.36	1.13	86.71	58.10
BNP PARIBAS A	43.71	1.26	55.34	38.14
CRH PLC	30.52	0.02	34.87	26.53
DAIMLER N	46.36	0.91	59.90	40.35
DANONE	80.00	-1.72	82.38	59.72
DEUTSCHE POST N	30.57	0.07	32.01	23.43
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM N	15.07	-0.04	15.88	13.44
ENEL N	6.55	-0.08	6.76	4.26
ENGIE	13.39	-0.27	14.39	11.31
ENI N	13.92	0.15	16.67	12.92
ESSILORLUXOTT	132.45	-2.75	136.70	95.50
FRESENIUS	44.31	-0.40	69.76	38.50
IBERDROLA	9.23	-0.20	9.57	5.68
INDITEX	28.79	0.14	28.92	21.85
ING GROUP	9.33	0.25	12.14	8.20
INTESA SANPAOLO N	2.10	0.03	2.47	1.80
KERING	449.20	-4.55	539.80	351.70
KON AH DEL BR	21.70	-0.08	24.01	18.60
L'OREAL	249.30	-1.90	257.80	182.00
LINDE	168.75	-3.30	0.00	0.00
LVMH	378.95	-0.95	392.65	242.30
MUENCHENER RUECKV N	226.00	3.60	228.70	180.50
NOKIA	4.53	0.00	5.76	4.17
ORANGE	13.46	-0.24	15.25	13.08
ROY.PHILIPS	42.14	-0.92	43.67	29.05
SAFRAN	142.45	-0.50	144.00	99.98
SANOFI	79.26	-2.33	82.11	71.74
SAP I	110.08	-0.98	125.00	84.02
SCHNEIDER EL	78.02	0.86	81.36	57.54
SIEMENS N	94.00	1.59	112.12	84.72
SOCIETE GENERALE	25.14	0.99	35.01	20.81
TELEFONICA	6.66	0.08	8.06	5.86
TOTAL	46.33	0.55	55.39	42.65
UNILEVER	55.48	-1.30	57.77	45.30
VINCI	97.88	-1.98	101.70	69.98
VIVENDI	25.08	-0.22	26.69	20.80
VOLKSWAGEN VZ I	153.50	3.50	163.70	131.02

COMMODITIES

Gold	1523.70	-5.40
Silver	18.15	-1.07
Brent Crude	61.54	0.59
Krugerrand	1526.95	-17.45
Palladium	1555.00	-5.00
Platinum	940.00	-42.00
Tin Cash Official	17150.00	14.00
Lead Cash Official	2035.00	-30.00
Zinc Cash Official	2350.00	-35.00
Copper Cash Official	5776.50	10.50
Aluminium Cash Official	1762.00	8.00
Nickel Cash Official	17535.00	-40.00
Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1105.00	12.00
Cocoa Futures	2277.00	32.00
Coffee 'C' Futures	98.80	1.75
Feed Wheat Futures	134.40	0.25
Soybeans Futures Continuation Contract	845.00	6.00

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	-0.462	0.00
LIBOR Euro - 12 months	-0.386	0.00
LIBOR USD - overnight	2.095	0.00
LIBOR USD - 12 months	1.949	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	2.25	0.00
US long bond yield	2.11	0.09
Euro Euribor	-0.403	0.00
The vix index	15.27	0.27
The baltic dry index	2462.00	-37.00
Markit iBoxx EUR	248.96	-0.39
Markit iBoxx GBP	356.57	0.79
Markit iBoxx USD	263.76	-1.26

WORLD INDICES

	Price	Chg	%chg
FTSE 100	7235.81	-46.53	-0.64
FTSE 250	19678.45	-27.07	-0.14
FTSE All-Share	3976.16	-22.02	-0.55
FTSE AIM All-Share	877.62	-4.37	-0.50
S&P 500	2978.43	-0.28	-0.01
Dow Jones I.A.	26835.51	38.05	0.14
Nasdaq Composite	8087.44	-15.64	-0.19
Xetra DAX	12226.10	34.37	0.28
CAC 40	5588.95	-15.04	-0.27
Swiss Market Index	10059.37	-14.45	-0.14
ISEQ Overall Index	6044.72	-17.35	-0.29
FTSEurofirst 300	1518.71	-3.83	-0.25
Hang Seng	26681.40	-9.36	-0.04
Shanghai Composite	3020.74	25.14	0.84
STI Index	3144.18	-3.47	-0.11
ASX All Ordinaries	6760.10	7.40	0.11

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	165.94	2.00	219.75	154.00
ABBOTT LABORATOR	84.22	-1.82	88.76	65.44
ADOBE	279.30	-5.64	313.11	204.95
ALPHAB RG-C-NV	1204.41	-0.52	1289.27	970.11
ALPHABET-A	1205.27	-1.05	1296.98	977.66
AMAZON.COM	1831.35	-2.16	2035.80	1307.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	119.92	-0.27	129.34	89.05
APPLE	214.17	0.91	233.47	142.00
AT&T	36.79	0.54	38.14	26.80
BANK OF AMERICA	28.63	0.90	31.37	22.66
BERKSHIRE HATH RG-B	206.62	1.89	224.07	186.10
BOEING CO	358.78	-4.22	446.01	292.47
CATERPILLAR	127.25	4.55	159.37	111.75
CHEVRON	119.39	1.13	127.60	100.22
CISCO SYSTEMS	48.58	-0.26	58.26	40.25
CITIGROUP	68.79	2.82	75.24	48.42
COCA-COLA CO	54.52	-0.71	55.92	44.25
COMCAST-A	46.42	0.07	46.69	32.61
COSTCO WHSL	299.00	-4.76	307.34	189.51
DOW	44.45	1.21	0.00	0.00
EXXON MOBIL	71.49	0.56	87.36	64.65
FACEBOOK-A	188.76	1.27	208.66	123.02
GOLDMAN SACHS GR	211.98	4.77	238.52	151.70
HOME DEPOT	232.87	1.74	233.87	158.09
IBM	142.60	2.03	154.36	105.94
INTEL	51.59	0.67	59.59	42.36
JOHNSON&JOHNSON	126.95	-1.26	148.99	121.00
JPMORGAN CHASE	115.40	2.79	119.24	91.11
MASTERCARD RG-A	283.36	-8.02	293.69	171.89
MCDONALD'S	217.26	-2.77	221.93	156.56
MEDTRONIC	107.93	-0.76	109.70	81.66
MERCK	83.47	-3.10	87.35	66.10
MICROSOFT	137.52	-1.58	141.68	93.96
NETFLIX	294.34	4.17	386.80	231.23
NIKE -B-	88.67	-0.02	90.00	66.53
ORACLE	54.54	1.38	60.50	42.40
PEPSICO	118.61	0.56	119.74	101.06
PEPSICO	136.40	-0.97	139.18	104.53
PFIZER	36.83	0.33	46.47	33.97
PROCTER&GAMBLE	122.17	-0.70	123.43	78.49
SALESFORCE.COM	149.54	-1.53	167.56	113.60
TRAVELERS COS	149.23	-3.61	155.09	111.08
TWITTER	44.26	-1.16	45.86	26.19
UNITEDHEALTH GRO	230.68	1.68	287.94	208.07
UTD TECHS	134.11	0.42	144.40	100.48
VERIZON COMM	58.66	-0.40	61.58	52.28
VISA RG-A	181.55	-4.19	187.05	121.60
WALGREENS BOOTS	55.59	3.03	86.31	49.03
WALMART	116.33	1.60	117.96	85.78
WALT DISNEY	138.83	-0.72	147.15	100.35
WELLS FARGO	48.41	1.26	58.07	43.02

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

Think Brexit is a mess? Imagine what Remain would look like

Robert Colvile

STOP Brexit. For those working in Westminster, this has become the song of the summer, chanted by the throng of ultra-Remainers who have pitched camp next to the media gazebos on College Green.

It is the – intensely irritating – evidence of what the polls increasingly tell us. Just as Leavers are coalescing around a no-deal Brexit, so Remainers are moving towards the cancellation of Brexit full stop. The space in the middle for compromise is increasingly barren.

But say that we did stop Brexit. What then?

The fact is that there has been an awful lot of examination and cross-examination of the consequences of no-deal – and, indeed, of the withdrawal agreement negotiated by Theresa May, and all the other options for Britain's Brexit arrangements that have been floated since the referendum took place.

There has been much less consideration, however, of what would actually happen if Brexit were cancelled. That is because the answer is seemingly obvious: a return to the status quo ante. Yet, that position is as fantastical – or, to be more polite, impossibilist – as the anti-Brexiteers say a successful no-deal outcome would be.

The option of getting into a time machine and setting the dial for June 22, 2016 is understandably attractive – certainly for those of us who voted Remain. But the reality would be very different.

For starters, you would have a very substantial chunk of the population – the polls suggest approximately a third – who would be not just aggrieved, but incandescent. The most important vote of their lives would be rendered meaningless.

Just as a reminder, there is no evidence whatsoever that Leave voters have changed their minds about Brexit in anything like the numbers required to invalidate the result. Those voters would be not just lured to parties of the extreme right or left, but given the most almighty shove.

You might argue that the way to get around this would be to offer a second referendum. But what would be the criteria?

Labour is proposing a two-way battle between Remain and May's deal. But for many of those who disliked that deal (which, polls show, is a substantial number), this would be a referendum without Brexit on the menu.

A vote between Remain and no-deal would offer a genuine choice, but would also be structurally rigged in favour of Remain. And a poll allowing voters to choose between the three of them would be fatally influenced by the architecture and wording of the question and options.

Still, let us say that Britain does end up remaining within the EU. We would further destabilise, or even delegitimise, the UK's political system, with a solid body of opinion campaigning vociferously against continued EU membership in general and every single decision made by Westminster or Brussels in particular.

We would also find ourselves in a hellishly awkward diplomatic position. None of the issues and tensions which led the country to vote to leave in the first place would have been resolved – it is doubtful whether we would even receive those concessions which David Cameron so painfully negotiated back in 2016.

> **None of the issues and tensions which led the country to vote to leave in the first place would have been resolved**

In the short term, we would surely not be forced to join the euro or Schengen area, but we would have lost much of our political capital to oppose the EU's federalising tendencies. What would we do if we didn't like how the EU was evolving, or if we were pressured to drop our opt-outs? Threaten to Brexit again?

Indeed, it is striking that France's Emmanuel Macron has said that he doesn't particularly want Britain back in the tent, because we would disagree with the direction in which he wants to take the EU – towards greater unification.

In the run-up to the referendum, I interviewed the leaders of the three main campaigns – Vote Leave, Leave.EU, and Stronger In.

I was told by Stronger In that they intended to fight an optimistic, positive campaign, and to make the case for Europe. Of course, they never did, because they could read the polls. They knew that the vast majority of Britons were profoundly disillusioned with the European Union. The only convincing message they could use was that the uncertainty of leaving was worse than the devil you knew.

One of the great ironies of the post-referendum period is that it has finally given birth to what Britain, almost uniquely among EU members, has never had: a genuine europhile mass movement.

For those shouting outside Westminster, or painting their faces with blue and yellow stars, the EU has come to be synonymous with civilised values – the household god of the Islington dinner party.

Yet in the process, its members have become just as driven by emotion as the Leavers they oppose.

Robert Colvile is a political commentator.

Ignore Elon Musk's doom-mongering – AI will strengthen our society, not break it

Daniel Korski

IN ELON Musk's mind, the dystopian thriller Ex Machina is forecast, not fiction. Debating Alibaba's Jack Ma at the World AI Conference at the end of August, Musk claimed that humanity was directly threatened by the development of artificial intelligence, and that human beings were simply a "biological boot loader for digital super-intelligence".

The billionaire Tesla founder has fully embraced his role as the prophet of the technological apocalypse, previously claiming that "AI is far more dangerous than nukes".

Though his hyperbole might have something to do with shares in neurotechnology company Neuralink, Musk isn't alone in the AI fear camp. As technology continues to expand our horizons and expectations, there's a wave of alarm swelling with it.

There is no denying that AI has the potential to radically transform our world. Yet giving in to sci-fi fears is both foolish and unproductive.

Granted, the rapid pace of tech development is breathtaking, but this doesn't mean that we're headed straight for civilisation breakdown and AI annihilation. In fact, AI technology is already being used to build society up, not break it down or replace it, bringing us together and making services work better for more people.

When listening to Musk's future predictions, we should remember that, as we speak, the technology he demonises is being used by doctors to help identify disease, traffic controllers to ensure that planes fly safely, police officers to identify suspects from indistinct CCTV, and bank staff to help prevent fraud.

In all these cases, AI isn't threatening to write humans out of existence, but is instead helping people to do their jobs more accurately and efficiently.

In every sector, there's a clear role for AI to help our services work better for human populations.

Of course, unquestioning optimism is dangerous in its own way too. No technology will – or should – be a magic bullet for all our social issues. AI is a tool like any other – it is how we use and approach it which will make the difference.

So instead of scaremongering, people like Musk should be focusing on creating the structures which allow us to realise AI's full potential, empowering those innovating in the space, and providing a regulatory framework to guide its expansion.

Fear is never fruitful – we need pragmatism to explore the possibilities of AI without giving way to panic or idealism.

The unknown is by nature unsettling, but it's also incredibly exciting, offering us solutions to global issues like climate change, ageing populations, over-stretched public services, and world conflict.

The narrative of social breakdown may sell well – in cinemas, conferences, and stock markets – but that doesn't mean it's an accurate representation of the facts.

What AI represents is a challenge, though not in the way Musk seems to believe. It is a challenge to our leaders and inventors to seize the opportunities that this technology offers to make the world a better place. Yes, AI can be the "boot loader" to a tech-driven future – but one which can help humans, if we so choose.

Daniel Korski is co-founder of govtech venture firm PUBLIC.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Nothing to gain

[Re: Should capital gains tax be raised and aligned with income tax?]

A badly designed tax system can create perverse incentives and distort behaviour. If neutrality is the aim, taxing capital gains at the same rate as income from wages makes sense at first glance.

But as is often the case with tax policy, the reality is more complex.

Capital gains tax makes no allowance for inflation. Suppose you bought a stock in 2000 for £1,000. If your portfolio's value only rose in line with inflation, you'd be taxed 18 per cent on a capital gain of £650, despite being no better off.

A higher rate won't raise more revenue either. This is effectively a voluntary tax. It's paid only when you sell, but as gains forgiven at death, there's a powerful incentive to hold off selling. As a result, at higher rates tax takes tend to fall and capital is locked in to less efficient uses.

If you could resolve these two fatal flaws, there might be a case for equalising capital gains tax and income tax. But until then, hiking it will discourage saving and lock in capital without raising revenue.

Sam Dumitriu, research director, The Entrepreneurs Network

We want to be encouraging investment in Britain, especially at such a turbulent time. The UK has had a hugely successful run in entrepreneurial endeavours in the past few years, and part of this investment boom is enabled by EIS and SEIS tax breaks for entrepreneurial investment. Challenger banks are the top category for unicorn companies globally, and the UK has more unicorn neobanks than any other country in the world, in part because of our great entrepreneurial investment culture. As startups grow, they fall under capital gains tax. The lower rate is a way of encouraging growth, investment, and employment. Ultimately, it fuels the economy.

Ricky Knox, CEO, Tandem Bank

BEST OF TWITTER

John Bercow has chosen 31 October as his leaving date because he wants his legacy to be forever tied up with the missed deadline ("The Speaker Who Blocked No Deal"). Even his mode of departure is grandiose and vain
@Madz_Grant

Poll: which will come quicker – October 31st or John Bercow ever actually finishing this pompous speech about how wonderful he is and what a loss he'll be to the Commons when he does finally stand down?
@JuliaHB1

Make Sir Nicholas Soames the speaker, seeing as he acts as a conduit channelling the ethereal views of Sir Winston Churchill.
@BenedictSpence

Important corrective. Jo Johnson, who SW1 journalists thought achieved "cut-through": "It rings a bell. Is he a singer?"
@JohnRentoul

Leo Varadkar today suggested to Boris Johnson that he faced a Herculean task, but Ireland stood ready to be Britain's Athena. (In the Greek myth, Athena rescued Hercules after he went mad.)
@williamcrawley

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While MPs argue, fintech must take the lead on driving growth

Charlotte Crosswell

POLITICAL discord, uncertainty, rapid change to the country's prospects every day – this is the present state of Britain. To top it all off, the latest survey from IHS Markit suggests that a new recession is possible, with economic growth slipping over the recent period.

The UK is at a crucial point. How we respond now will shape our economic development in the coming decades.

And yet, even with the stakes so high, the government is fully occupied by political manoeuvres and delivering Brexit. Parliament is being suspended. We simply cannot expect politicians to do the heavy lifting when it comes to securing economic prosperity.

Amid such unpredictability, business must take the lead. And with progress at risk of slowing in these uncertain times, that industry effort should be spearheaded by the fastest-growing sector of our economy: fintech.

The vibrancy of the UK's financial services sector, particularly in London, is the lifeblood of our wider economy, providing the capital that stimulates growth and enables emerging industries to thrive. Technology has magnified this – for consumers and businesses alike.

The rapid rise of fintech has led to its proactive adoption by our financial institutions, which are now also creating their own world-leading solutions. Thanks to the UK's reputation, we can now set global standards on the international stage for democratising finance and inspiring financial inclusion solutions.

Make no mistake – the likes of China, the US and Singapore are on the rise as fintech ecosystems. But no country has yet managed to replicate what the UK has. Leveraging our historical financial services pedigree, global connections, and progressive regulators has proven a winning formula.

But with Britain's relationship with the rest of the world in flux, there's no room for complacency. We must build on this position of unmatched credibility, unrivalled reputation and global leadership, which will in turn facilitate the UK's ability to strike key international relationships and sustain economic growth.

To succeed, we need to tap into all the ambition and vision that got us here.

That starts with winning the global race for talent. The UK needs a strong domestic talent pipeline with the correct blend of skills – computer science, engineering, and finance – which together will accelerate growth.

The politicians may be preoccupied, but businesses can lead by coordinating their own programmes, as well as working with schools and universities to inspire the next generation to retain their stem skills, become innovators, and understand the opportunity in financial services.

> **It is vital that the industry doesn't allow itself to be distracted by political turmoil**
>
> **“**

It is equally vital that the sector has sufficient flexibility to attract talent from abroad. This means encouraging those with advanced skills to choose the UK to develop their careers.

More can be done by fast-tracking the visa process – breaking down restrictions for high-growth businesses to hire efficiently and scale in the UK rather than go elsewhere.

That will require the government to act, so the industry should be decisive on exactly what is needed, making a clear case to busy politicians that can cut through the noise.

Businesses also need to look beyond London and support companies across the UK, investing in innovation centres to work alongside universities to stimulate progress at a local level.

Innovate Finance just co-launched the fintech National Network for hubs around the country to connect on talent and investment. If we can combine this network with local and central government support, as well as access to patient capital to scale fintech companies, just imagine the future.

Innovation has enhanced global respect for the UK's finance sector. It is vital that the industry does not allow itself to be delayed and distracted by political turmoil.

Instead, we must embrace fintech's key role in the economy, be bold about the future of the sector, and set the foundations for economic success in years to come.

Charlotte Crosswell is chief executive of Innovate Finance.

DEBATE

With its valuation in question, is WeWork's IPO really a good idea?

YES

ANDREW BOYLE

WeWork's objectives of establishing a dominant market position and global brand demand substantial funding, so an IPO makes sense from the firm's perspective. For investors, it offers a chance to gain exposure to a business bridging the requirements of landlords who require long leases and growth companies that require flexible space.

WeWork is also creating a valuable ecosystem for startups, where they can attract staff and share resources and experiences. Having started my own business in the graveyard of a Regus office, I understand how important the vibrancy of WeWork can be.

Over the coming decade, 4.5m new businesses will be established in the UK alone, creating increasing demand for "space as a service". The path to profitability is a concern, but at some point WeWork will raise prices or find other ways of monetising its customer base, operating platform, and data.

The keys to the success of the IPO are valuation and corporate governance. The dramatic shift in price talk suggests that a proper engagement with investors is underway, and that appropriate terms might be found.

Andrew Boyle is founder and chief executive of LGB & Co.

NO

GILES FUCHS

WeWork is planning to list as a tech company, yet it is much more similar to a real estate business. Unlike tech firms – which, after investing heavily to create their disruptive product or service, see costs fall – WeWork has to bear significant maintenance and other costs of the buildings it acquires.

WeWork is also seeking a valuation based on earnings before interest, taxes and amortisation (Ebita), yet a yield basis (typical in the property sector) would be more appropriate.

And there is a comparator: UK-listed IWG (Regus). While IWG is profitable, has a 30-year track record, and pays dividends, WeWork is less than a decade old, has recorded consistent losses, and pays none.

If IWG were valued on a yield basis, it would probably be not far from the norm for the flexible workspace sector of around five or six per cent. Given the disparity between the two operators' track records, it could be argued WeWork should be valued on a much higher yield, which would leave it struggling to reach its IPO valuation target. Of the two, I know which IPO I would be backing.

Giles Fuchs is co-founder and chief executive at Office Space in Town.

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ENTREPRENEURS

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Katherine Denham finds out how an app is freeing NHS staff from retro technology

WHEN Lydia Yarlott started working as a junior doctor in 2015, she was handed a pager. With this retro piece of technology, she was expected to communicate with her hospital colleagues.

For anyone unfamiliar with (or too young to know) how a pager works, the device beeps when someone wants to contact you, sending you an extension number.

You then have to find a landline. But as Yarlott explains, that's easier said than done in a hospital.

"There might be two phones in the ward and both are ringing, or you're in the middle of a task so you can't go and answer your pager immediately. There is a high chance that you end up missing the person who is sitting there waiting by their phone, which may also ring, or someone else might pick it up. There is lots of potential for interruption and it's very inefficient."

The paediatrician describes a page text as a message in a bottle, because the caller has no way of knowing whether it has been received or not, with no option but to wait until the recipient calls back.

With this in mind, perhaps it's not surprising that so many healthcare professionals today have turned to twenty-first century software like WhatsApp to help them communicate more efficiently with each other. But this modern method is also riddled with problems.

First, WhatsApp is reliant on doctors exchanging their personal phone numbers to connect with each other.

Second, WhatsApp groups have no way of organising messages about patients in any sensible logical order.

"There is no way of prioritising, and you can't find people by role," Yarlott explains. "Imagine that you've moved hospital, you certainly don't know

> It's a message in a bottle, because you have no way of knowing if it has been received

that the orthopedic registrar on call that day is called David – you have to be able to search by role."

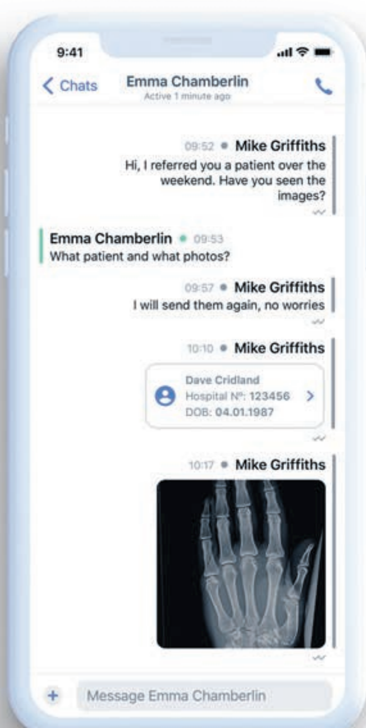
The other issue is that there is no way of separating personal WhatsApp chats with confidential conversations about patients – so doctors could have messages to their families mixed in among patient information. Yarlott warns that this has the potential to be really dangerous.

"There is a lot of confusion about how secure WhatsApp really is and whether it should be used to hold patient data, but the answer is it really shouldn't be used."

With WhatsApp being seen as a sort of sticking plaster to the communication problem, in true doctor fashion, Yarlott started concocting a cure.

With the help of a team of technologists, she has built a secure instant messaging service called Forward Health designed for doctors, nurses, midwives, and other clinicians. Through the app, NHS staff can search by name or role in a hospital or clinic, share patient notes and photos, with everyone working off the same list.

On average, the app saves each clinician 43 minutes per shift, which is time that would usually wasted waiting for a colleague to call them back.



Through the Forward Health app, clinicians can search for colleagues by name or role

It means that doctors can access the info they need anywhere in the hospital, ultimately allowing them to move away from paper notes.

It's a simple idea, and remarkable that nothing like this existed in the NHS already, which just goes to show how far behind official hospital technology – still heavily reliant on pagers – really is. And it's worrying that old-fashioned and counterintuitive tech is exacerbating existing issues in the NHS, making the working lives of staff even harder.

"Software should be a joy to use, rather than something that gets in your way," says Yarlott. "We can't afford to be inefficient about communication, because we don't have extra doctors to pick up the slack. People who work in the NHS should feel like they have a choice or some autonomy about the tools that they use."

Forward has raised $5.4m to date and is now being used by over 15,000 clinicians at 150 NHS hospitals and care commissioning groups – impressive given that it only launched officially last year. But it's hardly surprising that overstretched NHS workers are jumping on the chance to use software that could make their jobs easier.

Yarlott, who works part-time as a paediatrician while running her startup, says the sad truth is that the systems in place don't help the doctors, and therefore are a hindrance to patients too. "The NHS is populated by people who really care, and that makes it an amazing place to work, but it's losing staff because people are getting burnt out. There are ways to help people do their jobs more efficiently, so ultimately they get more time with their patients."

The scope of the Forward software goes even further. More succinct communication between specialists working in different fields of the

> We can't afford to be inefficient – we don't have extra doctors to pick up the slack

healthcare system could prevent patients from being readmitted, and ultimately free up hospital beds.

Readmittance is a huge problem, particularly among elderly patients. Yarlott explains that before a patient is discharged, the doctor, physio, and occupational therapist need to get together and have a discussion in order to coordinate their transition out of hospital back to their home.

That communication is made a lot easier through the app, which even enables photos to be shared virtually as evidence of whether a patient's home needs to be modified to make it safe for them to return.

"Keeping people out of hospital takes collaboration between local authorities and social services to make sure people can be discharged to safe, equipped houses. That's where I would like to see Forward go – because healthcare includes social care, and we should be operating a lot more holistically than we do already through preventative measures."

Yarlott would also like to see her app used to connect healthcare professionals with patients. "At the moment, we're focused on how useful professionals are finding the platform, but we would eventually like patients to be connected and given updates on what's happening to them. I really believe in democratisation of healthcare."

While bringing NHS tech into the modern era is vital, the organisation is such a vast and complex web that updating the system is painfully difficult – not to mention the fact that trusts tend to make standalone decisions, rather than learning from each other.

"Everyone talks about this holy grail of overarching system that will pull in data from everywhere, but realistically that's still a long way off," says Yarlott. "To solve the problems, you need to go right back to basics and find out how it's working today."

Trying to overhaul the NHS is not for the faint-hearted, and even this young entrepreneur admits that there are days when she feels like it's never going to change. But Yarlott clearly has her finger on the pulse, and her business is already making a difference.

MOTORING

BY MOTORINGRESEARCH.COM FOR CITY A.M.

FELINE GOOD

The Jaguar F-Pace SVR is a fire-breathing SUV brute. But **Tim Pitt** discovers its softer side

Jaguar's Special Vehicle Operations division hasn't been backwards about coming forwards. Its opening salvo was the 2016 F-Type SVR, a bona fide British supercar to rival the Porsche 911 GT3. In 2018, SVO then followed up with something even more extreme. The XE SV Project 8 was a hand-built 600hp road racer that vaguely resembled an XE saloon. Until a few weeks ago, it was the fastest four-door around the Nürburgring, its 7m 18.3s lap time besting a Ferrari 488 GTB.

Such cars generate copious column inches, but rarely do much for the bottom line. In today's car market, the fast-track to fat profits is an SUV. Jaguar's sister brand, Land Rover, has already launched several under the SVO banner, including the ultra-luxurious Range Rover SVAutobiography and armoured Range Rover Sentinel. However, it's the Range Rover Sport SVR, which shares its 575hp V8 with the flagship F-Type, that is most closely related to the new Jaguar.

In the F-Pace SVR, that same 5.0-litre supercharged engine has been detuned slightly to 550hp, although nobody – except perhaps your passengers – will complain about 0-62mph in 4.3 seconds and 176mph flat-out. The downside, inevitably, is a prodigious thirst for petrol. Jaguar quotes 23.7mpg, but I managed mid-teens during a week of mostly urban and motorway miles. Best commandeer the company fuel card.

Being large and conspicuously SUV-shaped, the F-Pace only delivers on the latter two parts of Jaguar's classic 'Grace, space and pace' ad slogan. Nonetheless, it's a handsome car that doesn't shout about its sportiness. Many will overlook the SVR's larger 21-inch alloys (optional 22s here), slash-cut air intakes and quad tailpipes, but its V8 soundtrack is impossible to ignore. It rumbles like rolling thunder, intensifying to a bestial snarl at high revs.

Inside, there are quilted race-style seats from the Range Rover Sport SVR, which look oddly out of place in a luxury SUV. Then you turn your head and realise Jaguar has given the rear chairs the same treatment. Quality feels a smidgen short of Audi or Mercedes-Benz and the touchscreen media system isn't especially intuitive. On the plus side, there's no shortage of space or standard equipment – as you'd hope for £75,335.

Minor quibbles melt away when you start driving, too. While BMW M Division boss Markus Flasch recently told CAR magazine "We didn't want to do the M version of an X3, we wanted to do an M3 in an SUV appearance", Jaguar has taken the opposite approach. This two-tonne family holdall isn't trying to be an F-Type; instead, it brilliantly combines the easygoing comfort of an SUV with the brawn and bombast of a muscle car.

Enter the wilderness beyond the M25 and you'll also find the chassis isn't simply a supporting act. Select one of the sportier drive modes and SVR changes direction like something half its heft. It feels neutral and keenly balanced, with supple damping and direct, nuanced steering. Unlike some of its ilk, you never feel detached from the process of driving. As a vehicle for every occasion, even a slippery grass field or snow-covered track, it's hard to beat.

So you should buy one, right? Well, maybe. If you like the lofty seating position and off-road ability of an SUV – and you can stomach the fuel bills – the F-Pace SVR is a slam-dunk.

But if, like me, you prefer the dynamic advantages and less abrasive image of an estate car, the Mercedes-AMG E 63 is equally practical and even more exciting. If only Jaguar would shoehorn that epic V8 into its XF Sportbrake wagon. Are you listening, Coventry?

Tim Pitt works for motoringresearch.com

JAGUAR F-PACE SVR

PRICE:	£75,335
0-62MPH:	4.3 SECS
TOP SPEED:	176MPH
CO2 G/KM:	272G/KM
MPG COMBINED:	23.7MPG

THE VERDICT

DESIGN	★★★★★
PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
PRACTICALITY	★★★★☆
VALUE	★★★☆☆

NOT CONVINCED? CHECK OUT THESE ALTERNATIVES...

ALFA ROMEO STELVIO QUADRIFOGLIO

PRICE:	£69,510	THE VERDICT:	
0-62MPH:	3.8SECS	DESIGN	★★★★☆
TOP SPEED:	176MPH	PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
CO2 G/KM:	222G/KM	PRACTICALITY	★★★★☆
MPG COMBINED:	31.4MPG	VALUE	★★★☆☆

MERCEDES-AMG GLC 63 S

PRICE:	£76,505	THE VERDICT:	
0-62MPH:	3.8 SECS	DESIGN	★★★★☆
TOP SPEED:	155MPH	PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
CO2 G/KM:	270G/KM	PRACTICALITY	★★★★☆
MPG COMBINED:	23.7MPG	VALUE	★★★☆☆

RANGE ROVER SPORT SVR

PRICE:	£101,810	THE VERDICT:	
0-62MPH:	4.5 SECS	DESIGN	★★★★☆
TOP SPEED:	176MPH	PERFORMANCE	★★★★★
CO2 G/KM:	290G/KM	PRACTICALITY	★★★★★
MPG COMBINED:	22.2MPG	VALUE	★★☆☆☆

CRYPTO A.M.

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

PARTNER CONTENT

CITY A.M.'S CRYPTO INSIDER

JAMES BOWATER

It's been another quite bumpy week in the crypto market with the positive gains being eroded although at the time of writing Bitcoin (BTC) is slightly up from last week at US$10,357.50; Ethereum (ETH) is at US$182.44; Ripple (XRP) is at US$0.2614; Binance (BNB) is at US$22.28 and Cardano (ADA) is at US$0.04674. Overall Market Cap is at US$266.61bn (data source: www.CryptoCompare.com)

I have just returned from an extremely positive trip to Zürich to see how the Swiss are getting on in blockchain and crypto. I was astonished to find how progessive they are but also relieved to find out how seriously the regulatory framework is being crafted. This all bodes very well for the next cycle of adoption by the more traditional financial institutions. This is a lesson the United Kingdom needs to learn fast as, at the moment, the biggest single choke point is the ridiculous behaviour of UK banks towards companies involved in cryptoassets and cryptocurrencies. I have been contacted by so many companies in the Crypto AM Community who have had their banking facilities removed or restricted the minute they engage in any actual crypto activity with the potential consequence of destroying their business and hard work.

By stark contrast in Switzerland, with a recently awarded FINMA (Financial Market Supervisory Authority) banking and securities dealer licence, the new Swiss bank SEBA is able to close an important gap between the new digital economy and traditional banking. For Swiss Blockchain companies SEBA will provide accounts and custody for fiat and digital assets without those companies living in fear of being shut down. Even in the United States things are already better than the UK with secure banking for crypto companies in the state of Wyoming where this kind of behaviour is outlawed.

Returning home there is a lot of introspective thinking at the moment, mainly due to Brexit, focused on once proud UK manufacturing industries. In a few key sectors like Blockchain however there is no need to look back, the UK is pushing ahead in leaps and bounds and the knock-on effect will undoubtedly have a positive impact in a number of areas. I had a really good chat recently with UK based Manufactory who are on the cutting edge of Industry 4.0 and the drive to create greater efficiency and visibility in the UK's (and the global) manufacturing space. Manufactory are using blockchain technology to drive this transformation and have partnered with Globacap, a name readers may recognise, for their raise. Without blockchain Manufactory wouldn't be able to achieve their vision for smarter more connected factories and the next industrial revolution would probably be happening offshore.

I'm looking forward to sharing more when Manufactory appear in the Spotlight feature meanwhile do look at https://manufactory.ai

FIAT'S RACE TO ZERO – THE ONLY LEGAL PONZI SCHEME

Designed by Phill Snelling, Bowater Media

For the last decade in my publications and various interviews, I have been consistently saying that it is a race to zero between the US dollar, sterling and the euro.The same applies to interest rates of which more than $17 trillion now hold negative yields. When the dollar rises, gold typically falls. The dollar rallied sharply during July yet failed to dent the gold bull run which underscores the strength in the gold breakout move we've seen due primarily to currencies which remain in a perpetual state of free fall due to record levels of money printing. Exchange rate stability is an illusion. Bitcoin, gold, and hard assets have been and will continue to be the answers to protecting the value of one's savings.

On 13th August, the yield on the 10-year Treasury Note fell below the 2-year yield for the first time since December 2005. A recession occurs on average 22 months following such an inversion. This has been true over the past half century. The inversion shows investors are harboring elevated worries about the global economy. The trade war against China and a hard Brexit are increasingly worrisome since the world is more connected than before. Chinese presence and control in Hong Kong may accelerate as a consequence of the current crisis between the two countries. Should such occur, perceived risk of doing business in Hong Kong will jump, and eventually, businesses may relocate into countries such as Switzerland and Singapore as safer alternatives. Capital is therefore moving into assets that are perceived to be safer. Earlier this year, the three-month yield moved above the 10-year yield.

That said, just because a yield curve inversion signaled a recession in the past, does NOT mean it will happen in the current environment due to the impact of Fed money printing debt monetization. Investors must keep things in perspective by not taking any single indicator too seriously. What worked in the past has often failed since 2009 in this Age of Quantitative Easing ('QE').

But as I've written, QE has its limits so it's a question of whether Trump's pro-business policies together with exponentially growing technologies, or ExpoTech, can energize growth in the U.S. to where the Federal Reserve will not be forced to lower rates all the way down to 0%, but instead pay down debt via faster growth. Renowned investor Stanley Druckenmiller has doubts and has gone on record predicting rates will have no choice but to hit 0% in the U.S. Ray Dalio of Bridgewater has said a major devaluation across fiat currencies is coming. Former Fed Chairperson Alan Greenspan has said, "This will not end well." Jim Rogers continues to put his bets on an unavoidable day of reckoning.

CME Fed Fund Futures now expect three rate cuts over the next three Fed meetings - 18th September, 30th October, and 22nd December. Other central banks are following suit. Beijing has already indicated easier money on the way. European Central Banker Olli Rehn recently flagged the need for a significant easing package in September. Mexico became the latest country to surprise with a cut in rates, the first in five years. Canada's

Crypto A.M. shines its Spotlight on Cudo Ventures

In the world today there are over 2 billion private PCs, 2.7 billion smartphones and 100's of millions of gaming consoles that are inactive almost 50% of the time. However; even with an abundance of underutilised processing power, storage and bandwidth, environmental damage is underway in the bid to build more and more data centres to provide organisations with the compute power they require for numerous functions such as medical research, video rendering and AI and ML model building.

Following the sale of his previous cloud and network infrastructure business for ~$30m in 2016, Matt Hawkins launched Cudo Ventures, in 2017, seeking a more environmental and equitable way of providing a marketplace for blockchain computation, enabling any business or individual to monetise or consume IT resource for workloads such as rendering, scientific research. In the same way Airbnb created a platform for sharing spaces, and Uber for sharing transport, Cudo Ventures is creating a platform based on the Sharing Economy model for consumers to rent out their spare compute power to businesses who require it.

Matt Hawkins, CEO of Cudo Ventures said: "Cloud services are an extremely powerful tool which is becoming increasingly popular. These services are expensive however, and with their expected growth they also have a big ecological impact. Distributed computing extends the cloud idea to edge and user devices, in order to reduce the need for massive server rooms and to facilitate the access to these new technologies. This will not only translate into a great reduction of the cost of these services, but also on rewards to the users for contributing to the network. By securely connecting the buyers project with the seller's IT equipment in a truly elastic way, ensures both parties benefit financially."

> "Cloud services are an extremely powerful tool which is becoming increasingly popular.

Nuno Pereira, Relationship Director
Matt Hawkins, Founder & CEO
Pete Hill, Partnership Director

Cudo Ventures' study of 2000 consumers reveals that consumers are open to this model, with over 60 per cent of respondents confirming that they would be interested in renting their spare computing capacity, which rises to 86 per cent for respondents aged 16-24. A particular interest in creating a more sustainable way of computing was registered by all respondents.

Matt Hawkins added: "The sharing economy has matured into an established socio-economic trend that is fundamentally changing the way we live our lives. And this is just the beginning. Our research into the impressions and impact of the peer-to-peer model reveals how much room for growth there is, especially in the up-and-coming generation Z market."

Cudo's distributed workload model means businesses and individuals can save up to 10x compared to leading cloud platforms such as AWS on one side.

Self-funded by over $2m to date, Cudo Ventures is now launching their CUDOS token, a service attributed compute token. With the private token sale kick-off at the Dolder Grand in Zurich last Friday for which City A.M was there to witness, Matt Hawkins, along with two of his senior team will next visit various cities across the US before heading over to Korea and Dubai.

Find out more at https://www.cudos.org

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

yield curve inverted by the most in nearly two decades, piling pressure on the Bank of Canada to act. Markets are primed on reduced discount rates and a resumption of bond buying across the board. German 10-year bund yields now stand at a record low of 0.71%. Italian, Spanish and Portuguese bonds sharply rallied on the news. This substantial stimulus would send the U.S. dollar even higher.

While hard assets shall continue to rise in value in this endlessly expanding debt bubble, a tidal wave of hard assets to be tokenized is coming. The ex-CEO of NASDAQ stated that in 5 years, all stocks will be tokenized. Others have noted this applies to just about any hard asset. Blockchain technology brings liquidity and efficiency into even illiquid markets by removing the middle men while enabling both retail and institutional investors to participate in fractional ownership. Tokenized real estate on the blockchain is just the ice cube on the iceberg. The economic advantage is massive.

As a consequence, HanseCoin is the first and so far only regulated company to target the EUR 50+ billion in construction equity projects starved for funding due to onerous regulations such as MiFID which decimated the closed end fund market. Other companies are focused on tokenizing completed projects ready for the retail market. But investors beware. As we know from the ICO space, many companies were built on broken business models akin to the dot.com boom of the 1990s. Such companies often use 'lazy' solutions such as tokenizing the rights to the underlying asset, not to the asset itself. As a consequence, only accredited investors are allowed to invest which avoids regulation and is certainly not groundbreaking. They

> **Bitcoin, gold, and hard assets have been and will continue to be the answers to protecting the value of one's savings**

then claim they tokenize assets which falsely drives up the price of their tokens. HanseCoin instead is moving blockchain forward by staying compliant with evolving securities laws while using blockchain to bring transparency, efficiency, and liquidity all at a substantially lower cost into the investment space which benefit the seller, buyer, and investor.

Dr Chris Kacher, Co-Founder at HanseCoin OÜ, in conversation with James Bowater. For further information visit www.hansecoin.com, https://t.me/HanseCoin and www.selfishinvesting.com/

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CRYPTOCOMPARE MARKET VIEW

Apple Thinks Crypto "Is Interesting"

In news that generated a lot of excitement in crypto circles, Apple finally revealed some of the company's thoughts on cryptocurrency. In an interview at CNN's Business' live event "The Table" in San Francisco, Jennifer Bailey - Apple's Vice President of Internet Services - explained that the company is monitoring the new asset class, saying "we're watching cryptocurrency. We think it's interesting. We think it has interesting long-term potential, but we're primarily focused on what consumers are using today."

In market news, last week saw bitcoin recover strongly from its slump around the $9,500 level to push above the $10,000 mark, the momentum of which carried BTC to a weekly high at $10,851 on Friday. Dropping hard off that mark, however, bitcoin is trading at the time of writing at $10,254. Altcoins failed yet again to make any serious headway, with Ethereum (ETH) trading below $180 for most of the week to trade at the time of writing at $180.24.

Investment management firms VanEck Securities and SolidX Management announced last week that they are planning to sell a new "ETF-like" product which will give institutional investors access to bitcoin. The VanEck SolidX Bitcoin Trust will give "Qualified Institutional Buyers" such as hedge funds, brokers and banks, the ability to buy shares in a physically-backed bitcoin product. The announcement follows over a year of delays from the US SEC regarding a decision on the two companies' fully-fledged Bitcoin ETF - which is yet to be approved.

Leading exchange Binance last week announced the launch of a new USD-pegged stablecoin. Delivered in partnership with crypto custodian and stablecoin issuer Paxos, the new coin - named BUSD - is set for launch later this month on the Paxos platform, and will be available on Binance, initially trading against BTC, BNB and XRP.

CRYPTO A.M. INDUSTRY VOICES

A show off strength to help SMEs and Mid- Tier businesses deploying AI, Blockchain, Data & DLT solutions.

While there are regular headlines on how blockchain will transform our daily lives, at the moment its potential application for small and medium size business [SME's], mid-tier and other underserved sectors in the economy such as education does not feature as a priority on national or international agendas. They are not the audience we see champing at the bit to attend the ever-increasing number of blockchain conferences and are frequently quoted as saying 'we know we need blockchain but have no idea why'.Most of the new blockchain models favour large or corporate business models. Other obstacles like a higher age demographic for established mainstream SME's increase the poor advancement uptake compared to the millennial and Z generation social and serial entrepreneurs who are avid digital and tech natives.

Surprisingly more than half the entire population of the world work in SME's and they are the backbone of the economy, both financially and to social development. Collectively that is a huge untapped market and conversely a market where blockchain solutions can have a profound and catalytic impact to an already disproportionately disadvantaged market. Reducing costs, increasing efficiency and overcoming the many challenges that have common causes of angst are a blockchain and a 'go to market 'opportunity. Yet SME's are often also missing enough people, skills and knowledge to develop new strategies to transform their business, entrenched in making ends meet, generating cash flow, meeting compliance and trying to grow.

A CEO of an SME in Australia was often competing for tenders against the might of big supply chain giants. The double disadvantage was that as an SME they didn't have the cash flow to carry the 90/120 day payment terms demanded by the mining companies on issued Invoices.The only way to compete was to 'bulk buy' on goods to keep prices low or offer a higher level of service with higher costs. They had to pay suppliers upfront or in 30 days because their account size was too small and carry an overdraft because trade finance was costly. Move forward a lot of years and imagine the joy of learning of a blockchain invoice financing option for SME's. One that buys invoice debt by tokenising invoices and fractionalised the risk with many investors, both lowering dramatically the cost and increasing availability to options and competitiveness.

Effective change requires a profound Mindshift in thinking and those in the blockchain industry with SME experience that understand the real challenges, to offer high quality relevant education, and actively support the step by step development of simple business cases that can deploy solutions. Trade finance, Invoice financing, reduced cost in financial transactions, systems to support verification of skills and compliance, greater administrative efficiency, valuing the identity and data of the SME, protecting IP, building international trade opportunities, creating business infrastructure that is affordable and trustworthy are good starting points. Imagine if SME's could use white labelled smart contracts for important, yet costly infrastructure such as Shareholders Deeds, Employment Contracts and WHS Procedures. The flow on is not just a reduction in cost but a safer, more diverse, secure and sustainable business. Building business cases to tangible challenges that speak their language and deliver bottom line results will start the trusting the process. The innovative blockchain start-up market is burgeoning. The businesses and sectors in which blockchain/ DLT really make sense are those in which SMEs don't have enough knowledge on how blockchain, AI & data work and how it will benefit in the future.

DR MAXINE ROOM CBE, Director of Mind Shifting | Taking Action, Managing Director MG Consultancy [London] Ltd.

BLOCKCHAIN ROOKIES

BLOCKCHAIN TARIFFS AND DUTY

Troy Norcross, Co-Founder Blockchain Rookies

Could Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) be useful in addressing challenges related to the collection of tariffs duty? In a word, Yes.

Blockchain and DLT systems have characteristics of being distributed, decentralised and immutable. They can be used to record all manner of things from traditional ledger entries associated with accounting to certificates and licenses of businesses, individuals or systems. Blockchain can provide a means to verify duty has been paid on individual items at any point during their journey through the supply chain.

Beyond recording information in such a way as to create a single source of truth between multiple distrusting parties, blockchain and DLT provide a platform for automating certain activities. Smart contracts make this work. (Think macros in Excel sheets).

For example, an entry made in a ledger, reflecting that a container of goods has paid full duty. Instantly, a smart contract automatically issues a certificate on the blockchain. This certificate allows anyone to confirm the tax status of the container.

With the ability to both divide and combine items, blockchain records information about an entire shipping container of goods as being duty paid. As that container is offloaded and broken into pallets, and then into boxes, and then into individual items, the ability to prove duty paid would persist.

Although ambitious, there are plans for a global trade blockchain where multiple countries participated as well as numerous manufacturers, shippers and wholesalers could be transformational in assuring the integrity of tariffs and duty across the supply chain globally.

Just because it is possible does not mean it is simple. There are challenges relating to standardisation, data capture, audit and more.

Still, the answer to the question is – in a word – Yes.

Get in touch with us: info@blockchainrookies.com / Twitter @igetblockchain

OFFICE POLITICS

The fears that haunt today's top bosses

What phobias would Pennywise the clown exploit to terrify you and your office?

Jamie Mackenzie

WITH the final instalment of Stephen King's epic horror tale It now in cinemas, offices will be buzzing with talk of Pennywise and the various monsters the character transforms into.

But what if the dancing clown decided to leave the fictional town of Derry and pay a visit to the modern workplace? In honour of It Chapter 2's release, we've decided to look at the phobias that It would exploit to terrify the average boss.

THE VENOMOUS SPIDER

One of the biggest fears for business leaders is seeing the company's culture deteriorate over time.

The initial ideas that a business is based on can quickly shift once more employees join the company, when new clients come onboard, or as the result of an office move. This is even more terrifying if the initial culture of support and mutual growth ends up transforming into a venomous, "sink or swim" atmosphere.

Of course, some changes are inevitable, so it's important that bosses accept the fact that their initial view of the company won't stay the same forever. However, if the business wants to maintain a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, it's vital that the right hires are made.

If senior management honour their commitment to employee development and support when growing the team, this monster is unlikely to rear its head.

THE LUMBERING ZOMBIE

There's another kind of phobia that keeps leaders up at night – the fear that, eventually, the company and its people will grind to a halt. Staff will become disengaged, productivity will drop, and the business will just be plodding along.

Even when things are good, it's easy to worry that the company has hit its peak and it will only be downhill from here.

Ultimately, the ability to maintain a company's momentum and productivity is in the hands of its managers. Working with senior leaders, managers need to identify how the organisation can continue to grow while still maintaining employee engagement and motivation.

A tailored employee recognition programme can often prove useful here – this can help to ensure that those in the business are continually motivated to deliver high-quality work over a long period of time.

What if the dancing clown decided to leave Derry and pay a visit to the modern workplace?

THE ABSOLUTE NOTHING

But as the saying goes, the greatest fear is the fear of the unknown. For many employers, Pennywise would transform into the uncertain future where the livelihood of the business and its staff are a mystery.

Many factors can contribute to this fear – the economy, client sentiment, or even just a bad day. But regardless of the cause, business leaders need to remain confident that the company will continue to succeed.

Having a clear plan and working closely with the senior leadership team can significantly reduce this concern, as bosses should never shoulder all the stress of keeping the company afloat on their own.

Collaborating with the wider leadership team also makes the job of running a business far easier and allows the company to remain relevant, fresh, and client-ready through the sharing of ideas.

COME OUT FROM BEHIND THE WORKPLACE SOFA

Fortunately, Pennywise won't be visiting the office anytime soon (we hope), but that doesn't make these fears any less real. And it's okay for bosses to feel worried from time to time.

As long as they have a plan and method to overcome these concerns, they can be sure that it won't impact how their business runs.

Jamie Mackenzie is director at Sodexo Engage.

WE ALL FLOAT DOWN HERE

SwimIO
Free

If you need some stress relief after being scared witless by Pennywise, a dip in your local pool might sort you out. Use this app to find a nearby swimming centre and check its timetable. If you're really keen to boost your fitness, the app enables you to track your swims, set goals, and improve your swimming technique.

COFFEE BREAK

SUDOKU

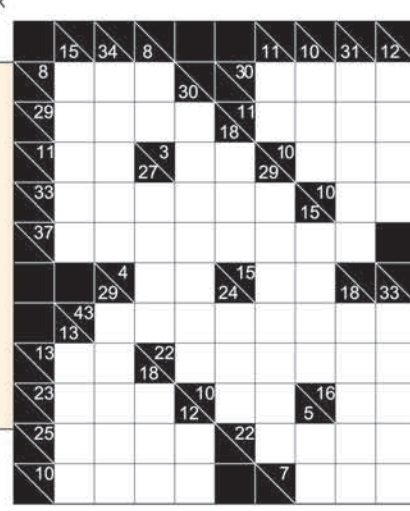
Place the numbers from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column and each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9 to solve this tricky Sudoku puzzle.

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

KAKURO

Fill the grid so that each block adds up to the total in the box above or to the left of it.

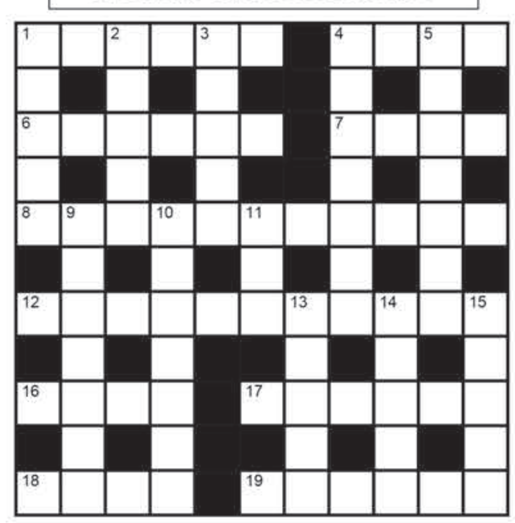
You can only use the digits 1-9 and you must not use the same digit twice in a block. The same digit may occur more than once in a row or column, but it must be in a separate block.



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 Common seasoning (6)
4 Pelvic joints (4)
6 Spice used on top of rice pudding (6)
7 Memorisation by repetition (4)
8 Held back (11)
12 Last but one (11)
16 Grooved tooth of a venomous snake (4)
17 One who suffers for the sake of principle (6)
18 Primary colour (4)
19 Fuel used in motor vehicles (6)

DOWN

1 Overwhelming feeling of anxiety (5)
2 Mountaineering spike (5)
3 Discharge, throw out (5)
4 Exceptional courage when facing danger (7)
5 Long-suffering (7)
9 On the whole (7)
10 Import or export without paying customs duties (7)
11 Rodent (3)
13 Asinine, silly (5)
14 Daisy-like flower (5)
15 Recruit into an army (5)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO

SUDOKU

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

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was PERCOLATE

JONES TAKES PUNT IN NUMBERS GAME

Does England's World Cup squad have enough caps to win trophy, asks **Michael Searles**

SINCE taking charge of England in 2015, Eddie Jones has been working towards victory in the now-imminent World Cup. Everything he has done over the past four years has been with lifting the Webb Ellis Cup in mind.

Yet at the 11th hour he has gambled, opting to sacrifice experience within the squad for talented but internationally unproven players.

Jones has repeatedly preached the importance of experience within the squad in order to win the World Cup, often referring to a cap threshold – 600-700 per XV – he deemed necessary and was determined to meet. He similarly saw it as non-negotiable for there to be two world-class coaches within the team and so brought in former All Blacks boss John Mitchell to work on the defence.

However, the England squad that arrived in Japan on Monday consisted of 31 players who have only 1,072 caps between them. When New Zealand triumphed in London four years ago, their squad had a total of 1,482 caps; there were 1,013 caps between the starting XV in their opening game alone. Meanwhile, the England squad that floundered in front of a home crowd in 2015 had just 789 caps heading into the tournament.

While England have increased that tally this time around, it is a strategy that appears to defy Jones's own beliefs but is in line with his tendency to be unpredictable.

Among the squad are newly-capped Ruaridh McConnochie, Lewis Ludlam and Jack Singleton, none of whom had been called up prior to this summer's warm-up matches.

Meanwhile there are a host of players used over the last four years that were left behind, including Mike Brown, Chris Ashton, Ben Te'o, Danny Care, Ben Moon, Dylan Hartley and Nathan Hughes, to name but a few.

"One of the vital things about selection is knowing when a player is just about to fall off," Jones said. "After two years, I thought we would carry quite an experienced team to the World Cup. Then I found out I needed to make changes so I had to start again. I wouldn't have done it any differently."

Despite the decision to incorporate "a couple of young, X-factor players", England are still one of the most experienced of the Six Nations sides heading to Japan.

The Ireland and Wales squads carry a similar number of caps, with 1,063 and 1,076 respectively, while Scotland, France and Italy are a little way off their northern hemisphere counterparts, all with fewer than 1,000.

Champions New Zealand will once again boast an impressive number of caps with 1,242 between their 31 players, albeit down on their previous two winning campaigns. In 2011, the All Blacks squad had 1,210 caps.

Perhaps surprisingly, given their mixed form over the last 12-18 months, it is Australia who will go into this tournament with by far the most experienced side. With 1,429 caps among the squad, they are the nearest side to matching the overwhelming knowhow that New Zealand possessed in 2015, and have beaten the All Blacks twice in the last two years, including a 47-26 victory in this summer's Rugby Championship. That victory was, however, against 14 men for the majority of the match and avenged the following week 36-0.

1,429

Total caps in Australia's squad, the most experienced at the 2019 World Cup

But the Wallabies have a knack of performing well on the big stage and, by Jones's calculations, their experience will stand them in good stead once again.

South Africa's 1,052 caps is not dissimilar to that of England, Wales or Ireland, although their World Cup victory in 2007 came with 850 caps, and in 1995 with just 154 caps – albeit that the number of international games played has grown significantly since then.

England's winning World Cup side of 2003 was another squad bursting with experience, however. Among the likes of Martin Johnson, Jason Leonard and Lawrence Dallaglio, Sir Clive Woodward's men possessed 1,103 caps between them, with just one player having made fewer than 10 international appearances.

With this current England squad lacking that same depth of experience, Jones will be depending on the senior personnel he has selected even more if England are to go distance again.

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

inquest is a tricky one, such is the depth of England's troubles, but the batting department still manages to stand out amid a packed field. National selector Ed Smith deserves plenty of criticism. His hunch that Jason Roy could translate his one-day ball-striking into red-ball stickability has flopped to the tune of 110 runs at a sorry series average of 13.75.

Meanwhile, another Smith pick, Joe Denly, has stood up with two half-centuries in the last two games, despite being bumped up to open the batting on a whim to protect Roy's wicket.

But really the buck stops with the experienced players who are not pulling their weight. White-ball superstars Jonny Bairstow and Jos Buttler have been converted into walking wickets – a collapse waiting to happen – against hostile, accurate fast bowling.

Bairstow's prolific white-ball technique has left him with a deficiency ready made to be exploited between bat and front pad, while Buttler, averaging 16.25 this series with one century in 62 Test innings altogether, is surely on thin ice. At what point does the allure of potential give way to the reality of mediocrity? Not yet, judging by the fact England have named an unchanged 13-man squad for Thursday's fifth Test.

AGEING STALWARTS

In general England's bowling has held up well. Stuart Broad has led the attack with determination and skill, bowling brilliantly to Australia's left-handers and extinguishing the threat David Warner completely.

Jofra Archer has, despite pace fluctuations, taken to Test cricket like a duck to water. His speed, hostility and angle of attack has provided England a much-needed strike bowler. But, with Test Championship trips to New Zealand and South Africa looming over the winter, cracks have appeared.

Stokes and Chris Woakes are in desperate need of a rest after a packed summer, Jimmy Anderson's calf problems are concerning, Mark Wood and Olly Stone are perennially injured and Moeen Ali's confidence needs reestablishing; stalwarts Anderson and Broad are 37 and 33 respectively.

Once the fifth Test is over England must take stock, understand their deficiencies and lay down the foundations for a fresh approach. As in Jamaica 10 years ago, they must use their failures to inspire a revitalisation.

Why England should beware Kosovo

The Three Lions play Kosovo for the first time today. Here's the lowdown on them, by **Frank Dalleres**

KOSOVO ARE RANKED BELOW TAJIKISTAN SO THIS SHOULD BE EASY, RIGHT?

England will be expected to maintain their 100 per cent start to Group A, yes, but they would be unwise to take it for granted given the upsets Kosovo have already caused in this campaign. They have caught Europe's attention with a 15-match unbeaten run, currently sit second behind England and there is a growing belief that a national team only fully recognised by governing bodies in 2016 could reach a first major international tournament in Euro 2020.

WAIT. ARE KOSOVO REALLY ON A 15-MATCH UNBEATEN RUN?

Yes, and it hasn't all been friendlies against Burkina Faso and Madagascar – although admittedly wins over those two nations came early in the sequence. Since then they have topped a Nations League group that included Azerbaijan, Malta and the Faroe Islands and further improved in Euro 2020 qualifying. It is all a far cry from their previous qualifying campaign, for the 2018 World Cup, when they took one point from 10 games.

SO, HOW ARE THEY DOING IN QUALIFYING?

Kosovo have continued to go from strength to strength. Having begun Euro 2020 qualifying with two draws, they registered a first ever competitive win in June, against Bulgaria. On Saturday they made it back-to-back victories, beating the Czech Republic to overtake them in Group A and take this small but fiercely proud nation further into uncharted territory.

WHO PLAYS FOR THEM THAT I MIGHT HAVE HEARD OF?

The most recognisable players to English audiences may be the handful of Kosovans who play in the Championship, such as Huddersfield's Florent Hadergjonaj, Swansea's Bersant Celina, Sheffield Wednesday's Atdhe Nuhiu and Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Arijanet Muric. But Kosovo's most high-profile star is Lazio midfielder Valon Berisha, while leading scorer Arber Zeneli – currently out injured – plays in France for Reims.

AREN'T SHAQIRI AND XHAKA KOSOVAN? WHY AREN'T THEY PLAYING?

Yes, Liverpool's Xherdan Shaqiri and Arsenal's Granit Xhaka are among a number of ethnic Kosovo Albanians who represent adopted nations – Switzerland, in this case – as a result of the diaspora caused by conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Players already capped elsewhere were given a chance to realign with Kosovo but Shaqiri and Xhaka declined.

WHO'S THE COACH I'VE SEEN RANTING IN A VIDEO CLIP?

That will be Bernard Challandes, the 68-year-old Swiss credited with turning Kosovo into a credible side and who remains unbeaten since taking charge in March last year. He likes his team to aggressively press from the front, as he conveyed animatedly in said clip, so expect England's defenders to be given little time at St Mary's.

SPORT

NUMBERS GAME Do England have enough experience to win the Rugby World Cup? PAGE 23

KEVIN GOES LARGE De Bruyne leaves Scotland's Euro 2020 hopes hanging by a thread

Scotland's hopes of qualifying for Euro 2020 were left in tatters last night after Kevin De Bruyne inspired a 4-0 win for Belgium at Hampden Park. The Manchester City midfielder assisted three goals – for Romelu Lukaku, Thomas Vermaelen and Toby Alderweireld – within 32 first-half minutes before adding a fourth late on to round off the thrashing. Defeat by the world No1 ranked side leaves Steve Clarke's side fifth in Group I, nine points behind second-placed Russia with four games left. Northern Ireland were beaten 2-0 by Germany at Windsor Park to lose their 100 per cent record. Marcel Halstenberg gave the visitors the lead with a half-volley before Serge Gnabry's stoppage-time strike sent them above Michael O'Neill's side at the top of Group C. Elsewhere, Manchester United's Daniel James produced a fine finish to give Wales a 1-0 win over Belarus in a friendly in Cardiff.

SPORT DIGEST

STOKES MAY NOT BOWL IN FINAL ASHES TEST MATCH

England have named an unchanged 13-man squad for the final Ashes Test against Australia at The Oval. Australia won the fourth Test at Old Trafford by 185 runs on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-1 lead and retain the Ashes. England, who will be led by Trevor Bayliss for the last time on Thursday before he steps down as head coach, can still draw the series and keep their unbeaten home Test series record since 2014 intact. Ben Stokes may play as a specialist batsman after suffering a shoulder injury in the defeat in Manchester, meaning bowlers Chris Woakes or Sam Curran could come into the side.

NUMBER OF MAJORS ISN'T EVERYTHING, SAYS NADAL

Rafael Nadal has played down his rivalry with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic after winning the US Open on Sunday. Nadal beat Russian Daniil Medvedev in a five-set epic at Flushing Meadows to move onto 19 Majors – one behind Federer and three clear of Djokovic. But the 33-year-old Spaniard insisted he is motivated by a love of the game, not competition. "I would love to be the one who wins more [Majors], but I am not thinking [about it]," Nadal said. "I feel honoured to be part of this battle, but I really believe that I will not be happier or less happy if that happens or does not happen."

SOUTHGATE TO ROTATE SQUAD AGAINST KOSOVO

Gareth Southgate has hinted that he will make changes for England's Euro 2020 qualifier against Kosovo this evening. England have no injury problems after Tuesday's 4-0 win over Bulgaria, but manager Southgate may still rotate his squad to face Kosovo, who sit second in Group A, at St Mary's. "We might freshen the team a bit, that will be important," he said. "We need to make sure we get the balance right."

HOW TO MEND ENGLAND

Joe Root's side need to hit reset button after being outdone by Australia in Ashes, writes **Felix Keith**

NOT SO long ago England were the best Test cricket side in the world. The story of how they went from world No7 in 2009 to the summit just over two years later has been retold recently, first through the gripping film The Edge and now with the release of former England captain Alastair Cook's autobiography.

England would be wise to follow the example their predecessors set over 10 years ago. Sunday's disappointing 185-run defeat in the fourth Test at Old Trafford saw the Ashes surrendered to Australia on home turf for the first time in 18 years. Something needs to be done to reverse the slide.

In February 2009, Andy Flower's side had been bowled out for 51 by the West Indies, suffering defeat by an innings and 23 runs in Jamaica. In response, then-interim head coach Flower called an "honesty meeting" in which players were encouraged to front up about their failures.

"It was harsh, horrible at times, but cleansing in its candour," Cook writes in his autobiography. "We had been all over the place. There had been too many excuses, too much distraction. We needed to be more honest in our assessment of where we were, and what we did."

The meeting has become famous as ground zero of England's ascent to the top of the Test rankings. It took the shock of such a drastic underperformance to spark a revival: fitness, mental durability, skill levels, decision-making, communication and use of data were all targeted.

The current England side's nadir – the 67 all out – may have come in the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston, and remarkably in a winning cause thanks to Ben Stokes, but the parallels with 2009 look apt.

Joe Root's England need to undergo something similar to what happened in Jamaica a decade ago. They have not been good enough. Too many players are underperforming, or are simply not up to the level required. The reset button needs to be pressed.

Head coach Trevor Bayliss already has one foot out of the door, his exit coming when his contract expires after this week's partial dead rubber of an Ashes conclusion at The Oval.

With a change of direction pending, the opportunity to make a full and frank assessment of the squad, coaching staff, methodology, selection and governance is obvious. It must be taken. Tough decisions need to be made. As Cook writes of the 2009 turning point: "Change is only possible when people are prepared to admit the need to change."

ROOT'S STRUGGLES

Root has now presided over successive Ashes series defeats. He has captained nine Tests against Australia, losing six, drawing two and winning one – a solitary success for which he owes a massive debt of gratitude to Stokes.

Since taking over the captaincy from Cook in February 2017 Root (pictured) has become worse at his chief role: scoring runs.

His handsome average of 52.80 when not captain has dropped alarmingly to 40.87 since taking on the added responsibility.

In this series he has scored 247 runs at an average of 30.87, with three ducks testament to quality Australian bowling but also his struggle for form.

Root's position as captain is therefore being questioned. However, with so many other problems to contemplate, no obvious alternatives and a recent history of giving captains time in the role, he looks secure for now.

MYRIAD PROBLEMS

The question of where else to start the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23