CITY A.M.

BUSINESS WITH PERSONALITY

TRAINING REGIME THE RAIL TRIP LINKING SWITZERLAND'S PREMIER SKI RESORTS **P24-25**

KILLING BEEB? WE DEBATE THE FUTURE OF BBC FUNDING **P21**

MONDAY 21 OCTOBER 2019 | ISSUE 3,482 CITYAM.COM FREE

FUND ROW: WATCHDOG BITES BACK

ANNA MENIN

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THE FINANCIAL watchdog yesterday hit back at claims it put pressure on administrators to close Neil Woodford's flagship fund because the scandal surrounding its suspension was undermining confidence in the sector.

Link Fund Solutions, which was responsible for overseeing the suspension of the £3bn Equity Income Fund (WEIF), announced on Tuesday the fund would be liquidated, triggering the collapse of Woodford's investment empire later that day. The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has dismissed claims it had pressured Link to shut down WEIF as "categorically untrue".

The Sunday Times reported Link had come under increasing pressure from the FCA to close the stricken fund as the scandal was denting confidence in the fund management industry.

"There was no pressure from the FCA put on Link to wind down the fund," a spokesperson for the watchdog told *City A.M.* A Link spokesperson said it "can't comment on what is in the FCA's mind", adding: "Investor interests are the absolute paramount concern for Link".

WEIF was frozen in June after becoming overwhelmed by withdrawal requests, sparking the biggest crisis in the investment industry for a decade. The fund was unable to meet redemption demands because of its large proportion of illiquid holdings.

FCA head Andrew Bailey accused WEIF in July of "following the letter, but not the spirit" of the rules governing liquidity.

As the authorised corporate director of the fund, Link had been tasked with repositioning the fund's portfolio, but said on Tuesday that it had been unable to sell enough of the illiquid and unquoted assets to allow WEIF to reopen in December as planned.

City A.M. understands that Link's decision to shut down the fund took Woodford by surprise, and that the former star stockpicker was preparing to make a case for keeping WEIF open, arguing that progress had been made in reducing illiquid assets.

Link also denied claims, first reported in the Sunday Times, that it had been preparing to close WEIF since July. A spokesperson for the company said the claims were "completely and categorically untrue... The decision to close the fund was taken in the immediate run-up to the announcement."

Link declined to comment on reports that its managing director Karl Midl had made inquiries about appointing Blackrock to liquidate WEIF's large-cap holdings in July, however said it would be "remiss" not to have "contingency planning going on at every stage of this process". Blackrock was appointed by Link to sell off WEIF's listed assets last week.

Woodford declined to comment.

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE: P17

RUDDY MESS Top City PR man in a spin amid People's Vote turmoil

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CITY PUBLIC relations tycoon Roland Rudd is set to quit his top role in the People's Vote campaign as the anti-Brexit movement is rocked by a fierce boardroom battle.

Rudd, founder and chairman of financial PR firm Finsbury, is reportedly set to resign as chairman of Open Britain, one of the key organisations behind the People's Vote campaign.

The decision comes after the PR man, who made tens of millions after selling Finsbury to WPP in 2001, faced an apparent coup led by Peter Mandelson and Alistair Campbell.

Private emails seen by the Mail on Sunday revealed how the two Blair-era veterans orchestrated a plot to bring down the chairman.

In one email, Campbell said a public battle with Rudd "should happen soon and be fast and brutal".

CONTINUES ON P4

Private equity swooping on listed firms in 'underperforming' market

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THE VALUE of private equity (PE) deals taking UK-listed companies private has more than trebled over the past year, as the valuation premium of listed companies compared to private firms narrowed.

The total valuation of deals taking UK-listed firms off the stock market more than trebled in 2018/19 to £14bn, according to research published today by accountancy firm BDO.

The figure represents a 278 per cent increase on the previous year's total of £3.7bn.

The beancounter said depressed valuations on the UK's relatively underperforming stock market was helping to make listed UK firms more attractive to PE funds.

There has been a string of high-profile so-called take private deals targeting UK firms in recent months, including the £4.8bn takeover of Merlin entertainments by the Danish owners of Lego, private equity firm Blackstone, and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. Meanwhile the government intervened in the £4bn takeover of defence giant Cobham by US private equity firm Advent International last month on the grounds of national security.

BDO's private equity head Jamie Austin said it was surprising there were not more deals occurring, with only eight such tie-ups over the past 12 months.

"Considering the attractive valuation of so many UK listed companies combined with the scarcity of high-quality private assets for sale in the market, there ought to be more take private transactions," Austin said.

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CITY A.M.

THE CITY VIEW

Anti-Brexit MPs keep moving the goalposts

THIS was supposed to be the week in which the UK finally staggered out of the Brexit-related darkness and began to consider the future – having spent three and a half years arguing about the past. Boris Johnson, against the odds, renegotiated the Brexit withdrawal agreement and was on the cusp on winning parliamentary approval for it, a feat which three times eluded his predecessor. True, it had come at a cost (losing the support of the DUP) but Conservative MPs and a small band of Labour rebels were prepared to recognise that the deal on the table was the only viable way to deliver on the 2016 referendum result. The deal was described as "admirable" by Sir Oliver Letwin who declared that he will be supporting it — just not yet. His amendment, which prevents the Commons from endorsing the deal until all associated legislation is completed, allowed every single anti-Brexit MP (and there are a lot) to regroup and plot the unpicking of the withdrawal agreement. Lib Dem MP Layla Moran and the Green party's Caroline Lucas posed for a beaming Commons selfie and tweeted: "We have won the Letwin amendment! The fight for the People's Vote to stop Brexit continues!" And so, with the time granted to them by Letwin, MPs will line up this week to push for a confirmatory referendum as well as permanent membership of the EU Customs Union. Johnson's critics in parliament claimed he didn't want a deal — indeed, that no-deal was his preference. Having confounded them, these same MPs are now set to demand membership of the Customs Union. This is becoming intolerable. Despite Mark Carney describing Johnson's new deal as "a net economic positive" and despite the fact that, as the UK's former EU commissioner for financial services Lord Hill put it yesterday, the EU is in no mood to prolong this process, MPs will continue to try and prevent the UK's departure from the EU. In doing so they are testing the patience of the public and the business community as yet more uncertainty becomes the price paid for parliamentary chicanery and political intransigence. The government, which currently operates without the benefit of a working majority, will still try to push through the legislation by 31 October, thus complying with the Letwin amendment while sticking to their own preferred timetable, but it will be an almighty, perhaps impossible task – made harder by the fact that Letwin has emboldened and strengthened those who will stop at nothing to prevent the UK leaving the EU.

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HOLY DAVIDSON Gold-plated Harley Davidson motorbike signed by Pope Francis sells for more than £40,000 at Bonhams auction

A GOLD-PLATED Harley Davidson motorbike signed by Pope Francis sold for £42,000 at Bonhams auction house in Stafford yesterday. The proceeds of the sale will go towards the construction of an orphanage and school in Uganda, the BBC reported. The bike, known as the White Unique, was slightly undersold as it had been expected to fetch between £50,000 and £100,000.

Government digs in on a second Brexit deal vote

STEFAN BOSCIA

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MICHAEL Gove has guaranteed the UK will leave the EU on 31 October, despite Boris Johnson's letter to Brussels asking for a delay.

The Prime Minister was forced to send the letter – which he did not sign – on Saturday after parliament voted to delay approving his Brexit deal.

The Letwin amendment to the deal passed 322 to 306, withholding parliamentary approval of the withdrawal agreement for the time being.

However, it is expected that the government will try to table a meaningful vote on the deal today in another attempt to push it through. Gove, the cabinet minister in charge of no-deal preparations, told Sky News yesterday the government has "the means and the ability to [leave on 31 October]". When asked if the government had the numbers to pass the vote, he said: "I believe we do."

Foreign secretary Dominic Raab told the BBC that "we seem to have the numbers in the House of Commons".

However, potential plans to hold a meaningful vote today could be scuppered by speaker John Bercow.

Leader of the House Jacob Rees-Mogg said over the weekend the government would put forward a meaningful vote on the deal this week.

Bercow responded to Rees-Mogg by saying it would be "most curious" and "irregular" if the government tried to table a meaningful vote, as it would invalidate the Letwin amendment vote.

If a meaningful vote is not allowed, the government will have to wait until Tuesday to bring forward a second reading of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill. If an initial vote on the bill is passed, MPs can then add amendments to the withdrawal agreement.

Shadow Brexit secretary Keir Starmer said Labour would attach an amendment to put any deal to a confirmatory second referendum.

"Whether it's this deal or any future deal, we need to go back to ask 'do you want to leave on these terms?'," he said.

A number of MPs who voted for the Letwin amendment are expected to vote for the government's deal this week. Letwin and fellow ex-Tory MP Amber Rudd said they would back the deal.

Amber Rudd plans to back Johnson's deal this week

WHAT THE OTHER PAPERS SAY THIS MORNING

FINANCIAL TIMES

STANCHART'S BILL WINTERS SET TO ACCEPT PAY CUT

Bill Winters, the chief executive of Standard Chartered, is planning to accept a voluntary pay cut as the bank seeks to draw a line under a dispute over his £474,000 pension allowance, according to people briefed on the matter. The bank has been in discussions with investors since May.

HUAWEI ADMITS THAT US SANCTIONS ARE HURTING

Huawei is struggling to replace Google apps on its mobile phones after being hit by US sanctions, the company's executives have admitted, saying it will be years before they can develop their own alternatives. The Chinese telecoms company, which is in the middle of a global technology war between Washington and Beijing, is being hurt by the US export ban, its executives told the Financial Times.

THE TIMES

ADVENT COMMITS TO UK JOBS IN COBHAM TAKEOVER

Advent International, the US private equity giant seeking to buy the defence and aerospace company Cobham for £4bn, says that it is ready to commit to protecting British jobs.

TRUMP AIDE DOES U-TURN ON UKRAINE PHONE CALL

US President Donald Trump's chief of staff was accused of a U-turn when he denied admitting that Trump had demanded a quid pro quo from Ukraine by withholding aid to encourage an investigation into Joe Biden's son. Mick Mulvaney said in a press conference last week that political quid pro quos in foreign policy happen "all the time".

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

LAWYERS IN SEXISM ROW OVER WOMEN'S RANKING

A sexism row has broken out over the ranking of Britain's top lawyers as one man has refused to have his name included in protest over the lack of women on the list. Chambers and Partners was criticised by Chris Arnold, a partner at a City law firm, for overlooking "inspirational women".

EUROPE MULLS RELAXING SELF-DRIVING CAR LAWS

Europe is considering relaxing its restrictions on self-driving technology under pressure from Tesla. Regulations that limit the abilities of Autopilot could be eased under proposals tabled by the company last month.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

US CONGRESS RAMPS UP SCRUTINY OF BOEING EXECS

The US House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee probing the 737 Max jet crisis is ratcheting up scrutiny of Boeing leaders as new details point to management pressure on engineers and pilots in its commercial aircraft unit.

PROTESTS IN HONG KONG CONTINUE TO ESCALATE

Protestors set fires and police deployed tear gas and a water cannon as tens of thousands of demonstrators took part in an illegal march in Hong Kong, showing that a raft of recent government measures has not quelled months of unrest in the city.

IFS: Labour spending likely to bring increased taxes for average earners

HARRY ROBERTSON

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THE DIRECTOR of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has said Labour's spending plans are likely to lead to higher taxes for those on average incomes.

Paul Johnson also said the party has questions to answer over its plans to renationalise the railways, utilities, and Royal Mail.

His comments came as Labour and the CBI remain embroiled in a row over the latter's analysis of the cost of the nationalisations.

In an interview with *City A.M.*, Johnson said the business group's focus was misplaced. Instead, he asked: "How are you going to ensure it's efficient? What is the regulatory structure going to be?"

Johnson added that other countries' experiences showed that increased spending is usually funded through higher taxes for everyone. "That's what you'd probably have to do," he said.

Labour has said that its spending will be paid for without tax rises for 95 per cent of people, however.

A Labour spokesperson said: "We will continue to be open and upfront about our plans as they develop."

FULL INTERVIEW: P16

LOSING INTEREST RBS retail bank chief to step down after 10 years with the lender

ROYAL Bank of Scotland's (RBS) retail banking chief executive Les Matheson is preparing to leave the lender as new boss Alison Rose completes her senior leadership team. Matheson, who joined RBS in 2010 and became personal banking chief in 2014, has told colleagues he is planning to exit the bank in the coming months, Sky News reported.

Auditor accused of conflict of interest over Thomas Cook work

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AUDITOR PwC has been accused of a conflict of interest for advising Thomas Cook executives on their pay and bonuses while auditing the now-defunct travel firm.

PwC audited Thomas Cook's accounts between 2008 and 2016. The company also earned £4m providing "recruitment and remuneration" advice to Thomas Cook between 2007 and 2012, the Financial Times reported yesterday.

The newspaper quoted the head of audit at a rival accounting firm as saying PwC's dual role represented a "clear conflict" of interest.

A PwC spokesperson said it had stopped advising Thomas Cook's remuneration committee in 2009.

"The non-audit work as advisers to the remuneration committee... was approved in advance by the audit committee, complied with all relevant regulatory standards, and was disclosed in the company's annual reports," the spokesperson told *City A.M.*

British accountants have been banned from providing remuneration advice to directors of firms they audit since 2016.

Boardroom spat puts anti-Brexit group in turmoil

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Former business secretary Peter Mandelson slammed Rudd's "slipperiness" and suggested leaking the PR boss's private emails.

The emails, which were accidentally forwarded to Rudd, lift the lid on the fierce in-fighting behind the scenes of the People's Vote campaign.

The movement was originally focused on pushing for a second referendum, but Rudd has ruffled feathers among the top brass by shifting focus towards overt support for Remain.

The outgoing chairman, who is the brother of former Tory cabinet minister Amber Rudd, is also said to have pushed for a wider shake-up of the People's Vote leadership team, including director James McGrory and communications chief Tom Baldwin.

In a letter seen by the Sunday Times, Rudd said he wanted to set up a new umbrella organisation to pull together different factions of the campaign, and called for a "female founder chair".

The push for a female leader would help to redress the gender imbalance on the campaign following polling that showed women were more likely to back Remain than men.

But one board member slammed Rudd's involvement and said it was a "relief" he was stepping down.

"He contributed more in dinner parties than fundraising and strategy," the executive told the Sunday Times.

"Rather than helping to bring the groups together to fight for a common aim, he was only interested in centralising the campaign around himself to the detriment of others. It became very unpleasant at times."

Another source close to the People's Vote campaign told *City A.M.* Rudd was "belatedly" trying to shake things up after requests from fellow board members. "He's not a champion of diversity," the source added.

Rudd is now involved in discussions with Stephen Dorrell, chair of fellow People's Vote group the European Movement, about creating a new organisation with a fresh executive team. But allies of Mandelson are said to be setting up a splinter fundraising group in a bid to cut Rudd's influence and take control of the campaign.

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Firms urged to cull incentive plans

JESS CLARK

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BRITISH companies should reconsider their use of long-term incentive plans (Ltips) in favour of restricted share awards, according to recommendations by a management think tank.

Ltips are designed to boost performance, however the system has faced criticism from some industry bodies and politicians as rewards are often not tied to a company's share price.

A report by the Purposeful Company, a think tank established in 2015 with Bank of England support, has said a quarter or more of UK companies should instead consider restricted or deferred share models, the Financial Times reported last night.

Under that system, part of an annual bonus is paid out subject to conditions taking performance into account over a longer period.

Purposeful Company chair Clare Chapman told the newspaper: "There is a clear call from institutional investors for boards to be bold."

The report, which included responses from shareholders, companies, asset managers and proxy advisors, said four-fifths of investors and three-quarters of companies classified deferred share schemes as the best system for certain firms and industries in some situations.

FINGER-WAGGING Metro Bank to cut off chairman Vernon Hill's expenses budget

METRO Bank is deciding when to cut off chairman Vernon Hill's £10,000 a month expenses budget, and could continue funding his lifestyle after he steps down as chairman of the board in December.

Libor rigging probe cancelled by fraud office

MICHAEL SEARLES

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THE SERIOUS Fraud Office (SFO) has shut down a seven-year investigation into the rigging of Libor.

Libor is the benchmark interest rate that tracks the cost of borrowing cash. The decision comes despite evidence implicating the Bank of England, the BBC reported over the weekend.

The SFO said a detailed review of the evidence had been undertaken.

It means no one from the UK will prosecuted for "low-balling", where banks understate interest rates they pay to borrow cash.

In a statement, the SFO said: "Following a thorough investigation and a detailed review of the available evidence, there will be no further charges brought in this case. This decision was taken in line with the test in the Code for Crown Prosecutors."

The code says any evidence must support a realistic prospect of conviction and be in the public interest.

Previously the SFO has prosecuted 13 traders and money brokers over four years in connection with rigging Libor.

The US Department of Justice has prosecuted six, while a further 11 traders were prosecuted for manipulating the Eurozone equivalent Euribor.

The anti-fraud agency was weighing whether to bring charges against senior Barclays bankers earlier in the year over alleged "lowballing" of Libor — lying about the bank's borrowing costs.

A representative for Jon Stone, one of the Barclays officials, said: "Jon Stone is enormously relieved that after seven years of investigation... the SFO have finally understood that there is no evidence of Libor manipulation and that Jon Stone is innocent."

Climate group patron owns a stake in airport

STEFAN BOSCIA

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A BILLIONAIRE backer of Extinction Rebellion has been revealed to have a stake in Heathrow airport.

Sir Christopher Hohn has clandestinely built a four per cent stake in Heathrow parent company Ferrovial worth €730m (£630m), according to the Sunday Telegraph.

It was reported in May by Spain's Banco de Sabadell that Hohn had bought a one per cent share in the Spanish construction and services company. It has now been revealed that Hohn has bought a further three per cent share in Ferrovial.

The billionaire hedge fund manager is the largest individual backer of Extinction Rebellion with £200,000 in donations.

The activist group organised protests over the past two weeks, some aimed at London City airport.

Three flights at the airport were disrupted, after one passenger lay on top of a British Airways plane on the runway and another forced a flight to turn around after take-off.

Despite this, Hohn has a history of investments in airports.

He is one of the three largest investors in Spanish company Aena — the majority owner of Luton airport.

Speculation is also rife that Hohn may be looking to significantly increase his share in Heathrow.

Forty per cent of shares in Ferrovial are owned by the four sons of its late founder Rafael del Pino y Moreno. A source told the Sunday Telegraph that the sons are acting separately in managing their respective stakes in the company.

They said: "In a go-private situation, a buyer does not need to win over each sibling, whereas in the past, a buyer effectively required the support of the founding father."

Hohn's investment company TCI declined to comment. Ferrovial was contacted for comment.

Business secretary Angela Leadsom criticised the firm for being "out of control"

Leadsom slams HS2 management agency

STEFAN BOSCIA

@Stefan_Boscia

HS2 is "out of control" and its management firm is "insensitive", according to Andrea Leadsom.

The business secretary has entered a submission to the government's review into the controversial project, according to the Sunday Telegraph.

She criticised HS2 Ltd for the way it treated homeowners in her constituency affected by the project.

The South Northamptonshire MP said she was forced to continually intervene on behalf of her constituents in the face of "insensitive" behaviour by HS2 Ltd.

She also slated HS2 Ltd for a lack of transparency. "[My constituents] would urge you to recommend to the secretary of state that it is scrapped before more money is wasted on this out-of-control project," she said.

HS2 Ltd responded that it has met 20,000 residents in regular face-to-face meetings. A review into HS2's viability will report its findings to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and transport secretary Grant Shapps.

HS2's budget was set at £30bn, but the Department for Transport has since revised it to £56bn.

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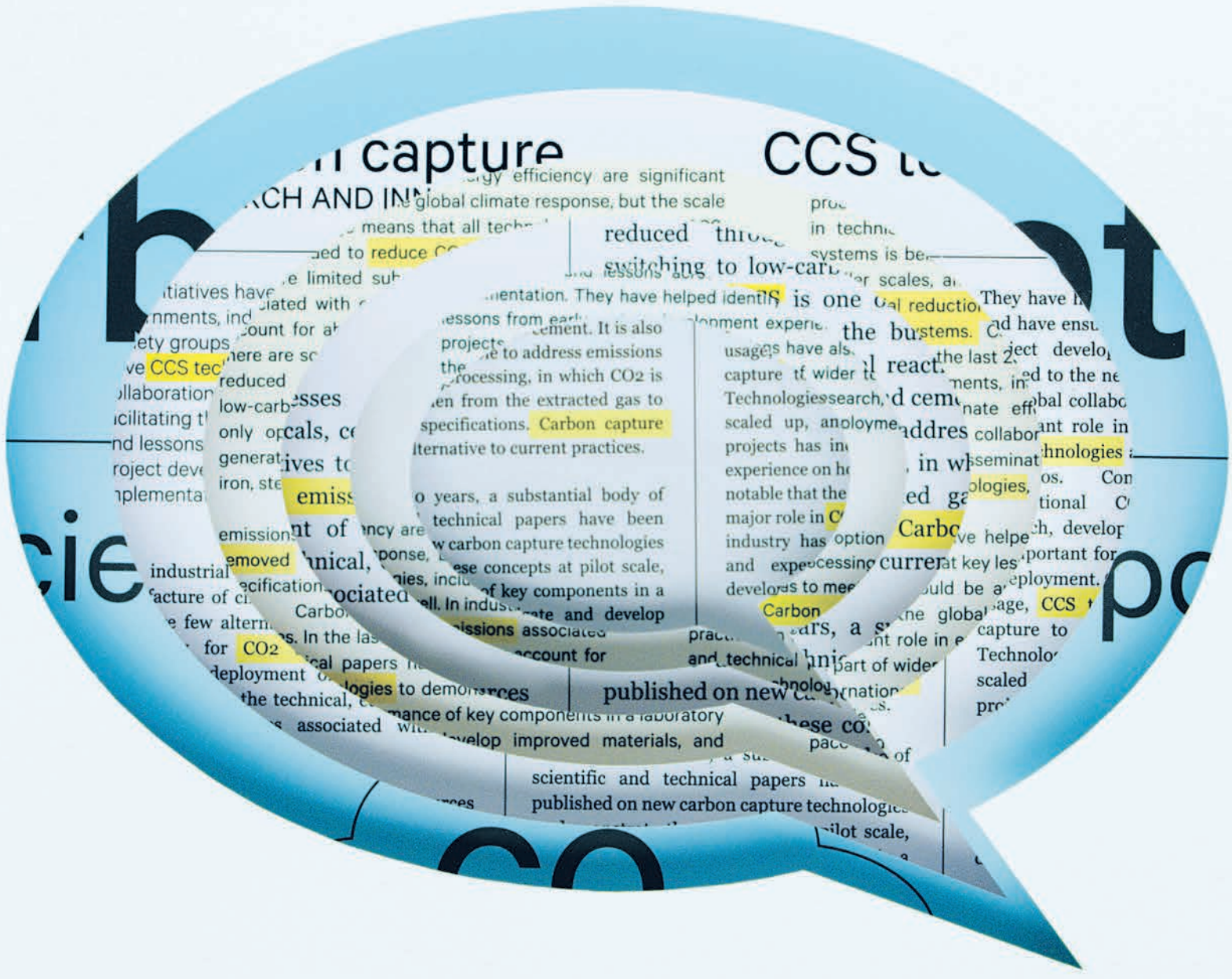

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Supermarket chain Iceland takes a hit as insurers freeze out suppliers

JAMES WARRINGTON
@j_a_warrington

SUPPLIERS to supermarket chain Iceland are said to have had their insurance cover cut amid concerns about the impact of Brexit on the company's supply chain.

Paris-based insurer Euler Hermes reduced the credit cover it provides to Iceland's suppliers over the summer, while rival Atradius is also mulling a possible cut, the Sunday Times reported.

The move will come as a major blow to suppliers, which use the cover to protect against the risk of a customer going bust after an order has been made but before payment has been received.

The unusual decision to cut the cover may also have a knock-on effect on Iceland if the suppliers choose to demand payment up front.

It comes amid a period of increased caution for insurers in the retail and food sectors, which have been hit by a decline in migrant labour and rising import costs due to the fall in value of sterling since the Brexit referendum. A lack of clarity over the UK's future trading relationship with the EU has also taken its toll.

Iceland said it was a "highly robust business" that had good relations with its suppliers and credit insurers.

Iceland is facing tough competition from German discount rivals Aldi and Lidl

Brits splurge on leisure despite confidence dip

JESS CLARK
@jclarkjourno

SPENDING in the leisure sector jumped in the third quarter of the year, despite a slump in overall consumer confidence driven by ongoing Brexit uncertainty.

A boost in disposable income confidence, which was up one point year on year, helped to drive leisure expenditure as consumers favoured experiences over buying material goods.

Disposable income confidence among 18 to 34 year olds increased 10 points compared to last year, sparking an increase in spending in nine out of 11 leisure categories.

Spending increased five percentage points on eating out, culture and entertainment and in-home leisure, while the amount spent on gyms and sports increased one point compared to last year.

However, UK consumer confidence fell to nine per cent in the last quarter, down two points compared to 2018 and one point on the previous quarter, according to research by Deloitte.

Sentiment on job security fell three points to eight per cent and confidence around job opportunities plunged five points to minus six per cent, the survey found.

Deloitte chief economist Ian Stewart said: "A decline in consumer confidence this quarter, combined with a fall in official unemployment figures show that the period of remarkable resilience in jobs and earnings is coming to an end.

"With Brexit cited as the biggest risk businesses face, the last quarter has also seen heightened concern over slowing growth in the UK and Eurozone and [executives] are tightening their purse strings in response... The headwinds from a major global slowdown and uncertainty at home point to weaker growth ahead."

Simon Oaten, partner for hospitality and leisure at Deloitte, said; "Consumers enter the fourth quarter in a relatively cautious mood and maybe for good reason. While consumers have been quite resilient since the EU referendum, a deterioration in the jobs market could see some spending contraction."

Fund manager forced to resign after investments investigation

ANNA MENIN
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A FUND manager at Capital Group was forced to resign after a BBC investigation allegedly uncovered evidence he was breaking rules by secretly purchasing shares in some of the same companies as his funds for his own benefit.

The BBC has claimed it found evidence Mark Denning ordered the shares to be purchased through a secretive fund based in Liechtenstein during an investigation into the fund management industry for an episode of Panorama airing tonight.

Denning's departure from Capital was announced in September, but no reason was given as to why he had left the firm. A Capital spokesperson said it holds its associates "to the highest standards of conduct", and had taken "immediate action" when it learned of the matter.

Denning, who had worked at Capital for 36 years, denies any wrongdoing. His lawyers deny he owns the shares in question.

Sellers' market as buyers keen despite Brexit

JESS CLARK

@jclarkjourno

PROSPECTIVE home buyers have been undeterred by the approaching Brexit deadline, while sellers have been put off by ongoing uncertainty, according to the latest figures.

The average number of new listings each week this month was 24,539, the lowest number in October in a decade and down 13.5 per cent on last year, as potential sellers are discouraged by the approaching Brexit deadline and muted prices.

The price of property coming to market has seen its lowest monthly rise at this time of year since October 2008. Prices are up 0.6 per cent this month, according to today's data from real estate platform Rightmove.

However, properties are more likely to sell at the moment as buyer activity is remaining steady and the number of sales agreed in October is down just 0.5 per cent year on year.

The percentage of sales agreed that have fallen through so far this year is at its lowest since 2015.

The "Brexit-induced paradox" means it is a good time to sell, Rightmove housing market analyst Miles Shipside said.

"Those who are ignoring the Brexit disruption have less competition from stay-away sellers, and their prospective buyers have less negotiating power, with a reduced choice of suitable alternatives," he added.

Marc von Grundherr, director of lettings and estate agent, Benham and Reeves, said: "No fireworks and no explosions across the current property landscape, and while the market is more subdued than usual, this is of course going to be the case ahead of our supposed EU exit at the end of the month.

He added: "A healthy level of sales are still transacting, and this is proof that the UK property market is yet to disappear down the Brexit abyss."

Real estate mogul Nick Candy with popstar wife Holly Valance

Property billionaire Nick Candy courts Saudis over Capco offer

JAMES WARRINGTON

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PROPERTY magnate Nick Candy is said to be in talks with a Saudi investment fund over a takeover bid for Capital & Counties (Capco), the owner of Earls Court and Covent Garden.

Candy, who developed the One Hyde Park complex with his brother Christian, has held early-stage discussions with Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund about a joint bid, the Sunday Times reported.

Capco has suffered a huge writedown on the value of the development scheme at Earls Court, which has been hampered by a bitter dispute with the local council.

Industrial real estate funds to double inflows

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GLOBAL industrial real estate funds could double the amount they raise this year as investors target logistics assets.

Research today showed specialist industrial property funds are projected to raise $6.4bn (£4.9bn) in 2019, up 120 per cent from inflows of $2.9bn last year driven by the yield available on logistics property.

Demand has been boosted as established e-tailers and new entrants to the online retail market seek to expand their warehouse space, and investors believe the market will continue to grow, according to research from Cambridge Associates.

Meanwhile, data from MSCI showed that yields on UK industrial property are 4.1 per cent compared to 3.9 per cent for office property.

Indeesh Tangeraas, head of real assets for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Cambridge Associates, said: "The continued growth in online retail is driving demand for new logistics property, and there are still opportunities with attractive yields in the market."

Plans to roll out 4G on Tube hit by soaring costs

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PLANS to roll out 4G mobile networks on the London Underground are said to be under threat as operators fret over soaring costs.

Transport for London (TfL) has outlined plans to provide 4G access to passengers across the Tube network in 2020 after delaying the process by more than a year.

But the latest proposals have sparked fears that mobile providers such as O2, Vodafone and EE will have to pay higher prices to access the network than previously thought, the Sunday Telegraph reported.

The rollout has also been hampered by confusion over a new Home Office-mandated 4G network for the emergency services, which will be installed at the same time.

Sources told the newspaper it was still unclear how transport bosses will divide expenses between commercial operators and the Home Office.

The commercial uncertainties could pose a fresh threat to TfL's already troubled efforts to launch new telecoms connections.

London has lagged behind other major cities such as New York, Paris, Berlin and Tokyo, which have already brought mobile signal to their underground networks.

A spokesperson for TfL said: "The London Underground network is an incredibly challenging environment in which to deliver technological improvements, but we are on target to deliver mobile connectivity within our stations and tunnels as planned.

"We are currently reviewing submissions from bidders and will provide an update when it is appropriate to do so."

TfL said it is still on track to launch the 4G network on most of the Jubilee line in March 2020, with rollout expected on further lines from next summer.

BOTTLE OPENER

City A.M.'s wine expert offers his pick of the best bottles around

BEING the reliably stereotypical British chap I am, I know far more about French wines than I do about wines from any other nation (especially my own).

Two pals have recently and independently taken on the task of introducing me to red Tuscan wines – with very favourable outcomes so far as I'm concerned.

Before their interventions, to my ill-informed mind, Tuscan red wines basically consisted of Chianti Classico and Montepulciano and, when in doubt whilst scrutinising a wine list in an Italian restaurant, those two words have always been my twin havens in otherwise stormy, wine-coloured seas. If I'm honest I think of Tuscan reds as being solid but not spectacular.

First to give me a liquid leg up was Andrew. A true Tuscanophile, even down to owning a property near Florence, he started me off with a Chianti Classico Brolio, Barone Ricasoli 2016. The grape varieties here are Sangiovese 80 per cent, Merlot 15 per cent, and Cabernet Sauvignon five per cent. This wine was a beautiful luscious red colour. The flavour was slightly fruity. It rested warmly and easily on the tongue. Very much the sort of Tuscan red that I'm familiar with.

He then led me further up market to Brunello di Montelcino, Pietroso 2014. This one is 100 per cent Sangiovese and the vines are apparently hand-picked (lucky vines). Again, the colour is richly impressive. Light on the nose, in terms of taste it seemed full of promise. Whilst it was delicious it is undoubtedly a tad young right now — I suspect that it will develop into a real cracker.

The following week I found myself being wine caddied by Ric (an appropriate term as he's a very keen golfer) over dinner. The Tuscan red duly arrived with our main course. I knew straight away that this red was very good. Actually, it was very, very good. But I wasn't allowed to see the label. What was it? We finished one bottle, and then another. And so effortlessly we progressed to the dangerous third bottle. Eventually Ric relented and allowed me to see which Tuscan treasure we'd been unearthing. It was Masseto Toscana 1998 — a Merlot.

Trust me, if you are offered even one glass you must try it. Simply superb! Ruby-coloured, this gem of a wine stands effortless comparison with the best I've ever tasted from France. Surely this is the sort of wine that the more tasteful Roman emperors, Italian movie stars and Serie A football players have sipped decadently over the years.

These wines are not so easy to find in the UK. According to the interweb, the Brolio, Barone Ricasoli seems to retail for c. £20, and the Brunello di Montelcino, Pietroso for about £40. A prominent wine app says that the Masseto will set you back an eye-watering £750.

IF I HAD SOMEWHERE TO LIVE...

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How Boris Johnson's big day fell flat

Downing Street's plans for a Super Saturday were scuppered, writes **Catherine Neilan**

IT WAS billed as a day of high drama. Not since the Falklands War had the Commons sat on a weekend. But as Super Saturday turned into Soggy Saturday, it was clear things were not going to pan out as the government had hoped.

Having agreed an 11th-hour deal at the European Council, Saturday was the Prime Minister's last chance to gain parliamentary approval before the Benn Act was triggered, forcing him to write to the EU seeking an extension. The required letters were sent on Saturday night, though without any enthusiasm from Downing Street and with the hope that MPs will still vote for the deal before 31 October. But how, with the stakes so high, did it all go so wrong?

Outside parliament on Saturday, People's Vote protesters gathered in their thousands and there was a near-miss security breach as a man tried to get through the parliamentary barriers.

Behind the scenes, Downing Street and the whips office were in overdrive — courting MPs of all persuasions. Meanwhile commentators meticulously compiled tallies of how they expected the vote would go.

Eurosceptics Tories in the ERG, including Bill Cash, said they would back it. The threat of Cabinet resignations dissolved. Labour Brexiters such as Sarah Champion and Caroline Flint said they would defy the Labour whip over it. At one point it was even rumoured that Lib Dem MP Norman Lamb was with the government. But it was not to be, and by 3pm it was clear the government was going to be defeated again — thanks to parliamentary grandee Sir Oliver Letwin.

Number 10 had burned its bridges with the Democratic Unionist Party on Thursday, when Boris Johnson went ahead with the new Brexit deal without their support.

MPs gathered in parliament on Saturday for a special session, for only the second time in Commons' history. The debate was met with People's Vote protests outside Westminster, as Sir Oliver Letwin (below, right) led the charge to delay Boris Johnson's deal.

That deal, the DUP's Sammy Wilson explained to the Commons at the weekend, could never be acceptable because of the border it creates in the Irish Sea.

That didn't stop Downing Street trying to win the 10 unionist MPs over. But despite Wilson and co leaving the door open to a deal, in the end they went against the government, confirming the death of the confidence and supply partnership agreed in 2017.

By now the war was being waged on all fronts, with chief troublemaker Letwin having launched his delay amendment and so ending any hope the deal had of passing. Letwin was called into Downing Street on Friday evening, with the hope of persuading him to drop the amendment — which he described as an insurance policy against a no-deal, although critics were less complimentary.

Tory MPs bombarded Letwin with requests to lay down his arms, but he would not be budged. MPs coalesced around his amendment — some because they genuinely fear no-deal, others because they want to buy more time for the efforts to stop Brexit entirely. Despite the setback, Johnson remains adamant that the UK will leave the EU on 31 October.

How will he achieve this after yet another defeat? His team believes that, after a weekend of backroom chats, compromises and arm-twisting, they now have the numbers for the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which will be published today, debated and then voted on by the Commons later this week. Assuming, that is, speaker Bercow allows it.

Remainer Tories including former chancellor Philip Hammond are said to be on board in principle, and others may fall in line. It then still has to get through the Lords — and will probably go back and forth in the process known as ping pong, before it has a hope of actually passing. All of this will take time, and some MPs are set on dragging it out for as long as possible.

It is a blistering timetable, and the threat of a delay until next January or even a second referendum is not completely off the table. A General Election this year now seems unlikely, but not impossible.

Uncertainty remains the order of the day. But this week will prove whether Johnson's pledge to get Brexit done by Halloween can be met. Ministers are pinning their hopes on EU leaders, some of whom see little sense in a further delay now that a final deal is on the table.

But Westminster's anti-Brexit forces will not go quietly, and so the drama will extend into this week — and beyond.

Temasek meets SNC-Lavalin for Atkins sale talks

ANNA MENIN

@annafmenin

SINGAPOREAN sovereign wealth fund Temasek has reportedly held talks about a possible takeover of British engineering giant Atkins.

Canadian conglomerate SNC-Lavalin, which bought Atkins in 2017, is believed to have approached potential bidders including Temasek over the sale of the engineering firm, the Sunday Times reported.

Atkins, which was founded in 1938, has been involved in high-profile engineering projects including HS2, Crossrail, and Hinkley Point C. It also provided infrastructure and planning support for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The company had been listed for two decades before Montreal-based SNC picked it up during an ill-fated acquisition spree.

The group took over another British engineering firm, Kentz, for £1.2bn in 2014. SNC has been hit by falling profit since then, and its shares have plunged more than 70 per cent over the past 16 months.

The company, which is 20 per cent owned by Quebec's pension fund CDPQ, issued a profit warning in July.

SNC is thought to have approached potential buyers for Atkins several months ago but talks are not thought to have progressed significantly since then.

Although it is unclear what form a potential deal would take, a joint venture is understood to be a possibility.

Atkins' former boss Uwe Kruger is now a senior manager at Temasek, which manages a portfolio worth 313 billion Singaporean dollars (£177bn).

Temasek could not be reached for comment yesterday.

SNC-Lavalin did not respond to a *City A.M.* request for comment, but told the Sunday Times it was not planning to sell Atkins.

Yougarden specialises in providing quick and flexibile delivery of live plants

Management buyout of online garden centre backed by Kester

ANNA MENIN

@annafmenin

KESTER Capital has thrown its weight behind a management buyout of Yougarden, as the online garden centre seeks to grow its influence over the UK's horticultural market.

Founded in 2012, Yougarden operates a direct-to-consumer brand and also supplies retailers including Amazon, Groupon and Shop Direct.

The terms of the management buyout have not been disclosed, but Kester is a long-term supporter of Yougarden, and provided seed capital for the firm in 2012. Kester managing partner Cameron Crocket said Yougarden "has continually taken market share from the traditional garden centre and legacy home shopping retailers".

Boeing workers sent texts over 737 safety woes

MICHAEL SEARLES

@michaelsearles_

EMPLOYEES of Boeing exchanged messages about the issues with the 737 Max's automated safety system as it was being certified in 2016, new information has revealed.

A pilot said he had run into unexpected trouble during the tests, it was revealed in documents provided to politicians.

He said that unknowingly he had "basically lied to the regulators".

Issues with the safety system have been tied to two crashes killing all 346 people on board.

The first incident came a year ago in October 2018 when a Lion Air 737 Max aircraft crashed into the sea shortly after taking off from Jakarta, killing 189 people.

Five months later in March of this year, an Ethiopian Airlines 737 Max crashed minutes after taking off from Addis Ababa killing 157.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the document was "concerning" and asked for an "immediate" explanation for the delay in turning over the documents, which were handed to lawmakers ahead of hearings later this month.

EU's incoming economy commissioner calls for less restrictive budget policies

GAVIN JONES

THE EUROPEAN Union needs looser budgetary policies and an overhaul of its fiscal rulebook, the bloc's designated economics commissioner said in an article published yesterday.

Writing in Italian financial daily Il Sole 24 Ore, Paolo Gentiloni said that while the EU's deficit and debt rules must not be ignored, they needed to be "reviewed and updated".

"It's time for countries which have fiscal space to use it, in an overall context of less restrictive budgetary policies," Gentiloni, due to replace Pierre Moscovici as economic and financial affairs commissioner on 1 November, said.

The former Italian Prime Minister warned that with the EU economy slowing, "the risks of a prolonged period of low growth must not be overlooked" and the task of stimulating the economy "cannot be left to monetary policy alone".

Gentiloni will have an important role in scrutinising Italy's draft 2020 budget which was submitted to the commission last week.

The budget plan raises next year's structural deficit — which excludes the effect of GDP growth fluctuations — by 0.1 per cent of GDP, reversing a previous commitment by Rome to lower it by 0.6 per cent.

Brussels is understood to likely ask Italy for clarifications over its budget intentions. *Reuters*

China's Xiaomi to launch 10 new 5G phones in 2020

JOSH HORWITZ

CHINESE smartphone maker Xiaomi plans to launch more than 10 5G phones in 2020, chief executive Lei Jun said yesterday, speaking at the World Internet conference in the eastern Chinese town of Wuzhen.

Lei's remarks come as the company faces intense competition in its home market from rival Huawei.

Last month Xiaomi launched the Xiaomi Mi 9 Pro, the company's first 5G-enabled phone for the domestic Chinese market.

According to Lei, demand for the phone exceeded the company's expectations and led to supply chain issues.

The device's reception has prompted Xiaomi to launch 5G models for the high, middle, and low-end price tiers next year.

"People in the industry fear that next year 4G models won't sell, this is a step you have no choice but to take," Lei said.

"So we hope that operators can speed up 5G." *Reuters*

Qantas boss Alan Joyce called the flight a historic moment for the world of aviation

Qantas tests world's longest flight on plane from New York to Sydney

STEFICA NICOL BIKES

AUSTRALIA's flag carrier Qantas yesterday completed a nonstop test flight from New York to Sydney, researching how the world's longest potential commercial aeroplane journey of nearly 20 hours would impact pilots, crew and passengers.

Carrying 50 passengers and crew on board, Qantas Flight 7879 on a new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner touched down in Sydney yesterday morning after a 16,200-kilometre (10,066-mile) journey which lasted 19 hours 16 minutes.

With demand for air travel rapidly growing and aircraft performance improving, carriers are increasingly looking into ultra-long-haul travel.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) expects the worldwide number of annual passengers to grow from 4.6bn this year to 8.2bn by 2037.

No commercial aircraft as of yet has the range to fly such an ultra-long haul with a full passenger and cargo load. To give the plane the needed range, the Qantas flight took off with maximum fuel, only a few passengers, restricted baggage load and no cargo.

The aim of the research was to increase health and wellness and minimize jet lag. *Reuters*

Long-haul, fuel efficient jets drive demand at the Las Vegas air show

ALLISON LAMPERT

NEW LARGE corporate planes that can fly farther and an industry push toward sustainable aviation fuels are seen as bright spots as the world's biggest business jet makers assemble in Las Vegas to showcase their offerings at the sector's largest gathering.

The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) annual corporate aircraft show kicks off tomorrow against a backdrop of slowing global economic growth, trade tensions between the United States and China and Brexit uncertainties, factors seen softening demand for corporate jets in the next two years, industry executives and analysts say.

Nevertheless, the jet makers have had a good year, with deliveries up almost 13 per cent during the first half of 2019, according to data from the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA).

Deliveries are being fueled by luxurious new longer-range models hitting the market that offer amenities such as beds and hot showers at 40,000 feet, analysts say. *Reuters*

INTERVIEW

HEY, BIG SPENDER: THE RACE TO TURN THE TAPS BACK ON

Institute for Fiscal Studies chief Paul Johnson chats to **Harry Robertson** about the new economic reality

IN THE EIGHT years Paul Johnson has been director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), he has seen three Prime Ministers, two General Elections and — so far — one Brexit referendum.

If that wasn't enough, Britain's political leaders have recently torn up their commitment to formerly sacred economic doctrines. Gone is the Conservative devotion to austerity, while there is nothing left of Labour's restraint under former shadow chancellor Ed Balls.

The IFS — the well-respected research institute — has coped with turbulent political weather remarkably well. Its steady stream of thorough and non-partisan analysis continues, and policymakers are still petrified of the institute taking issue with their plans. But with a General Election looming, what does its boss think of the current state of affairs?

A few days before we met, the CBI harshly criticised Labour's radical plans to renationalise the railways, utilities, and Royal Mail. The business group said the moves would cost an "eye-watering" £196bn – before admitting it couldn't be entirely sure of its figures.

Johnson says the CBI's focus on upfront costs was misplaced. "The really important question is: how are you going to do it?" he says. "How are you going to ensure it's efficient? What is the regulatory structure going to be?" Labour must answer these questions with detailed answers.

Running nationalised industries from government departments "is just not going to work," he adds. "But if it's genuinely arm's length, what benefit are you getting that you're not getting, and you couldn't get, by changing the regulatory system in the private sector?" Johnson says it's these sorts of things "the media ought to be pressing them on, not 'is it £196bn', which is easy for them to bat off."

> "The argument has to be stronger than 'rates are low, let's spend'

Johnson's impressive 30-year career has included various civil service roles, including as a top economist in the Treasury. His voice carries the weight of experience, then, when he says Labour needs to be more honest about how it will fund its policies – including £250bn of infrastructure investment over 10 years.

The party has promised no tax rises for those on less than £80,000 a year, and pledged to squeeze the cash from companies and the rich.

Johnson is sceptical. He argues Labour's tax plans wouldn't earn as much money as the party has claimed. "Countries which do raise a lot more tax than we do," he says, "basically do it by getting more from people on average incomes. In the end that's what you'd probably have to do at least some of."

Chancellor Sajid Javid's commitment to disregarding the policies of his predecessors has been just as firm as his Labour counterpart John McDonnell's. He has promised the biggest spending rise in more than 15 years next year — around £13.4bn.

Javid's pledges of billions more for schools, hospitals and the Home Office will take spending beyond the limits set out by former chancellor Philip Hammond. Johnson is reluctant to criticise this rule breach, however, calling the deficit "quite manageable".

Paul Johnson has led the IFS since 2011

Yet he is less sanguine about Prime Minister Boris Johnson's promised tax cuts, which would raise the higher-rate income tax threshold from £50,000 to £80,000. The IFS boss highlights Britain's ageing population and the resultant higher spending on health and social care.

"My view is that it's not feasible to reduce the tax burden from where it is at the moment unless you're going to do something really quite remarkable for public services," he says, such as slashing the NHS or significantly means-testing state pensions, which he says are not "really on the cards".

Johnson does have some concerns about the Conservatives' approach to spending. "Over the last three years, we've had sort of last minute top ups," he says. "It does feel a bit like government by crisis management in some of these public services."

Crime spending is one example, Johnson says. Police numbers were cut dramatically under David Cameron and George Osborne, only for the new PM to restore them. "The worst thing to do is sack 20,000 police and then recruit them again," he says. "It's incredibly inefficient and expensive."

Both Javid and McDonnell have latched on to a growing view in mainstream economics that record-low interest rates mean high levels of government debt are more than manageable. But is it correct?

"It is clearly true that we can manage with more debt than we used to be able to," Johnson says. "The [UK's] debt of 80 per cent of national income is pretty cheap to cope with at the moment." He says interest rates have "been like this for 10 years now and 10 years is beginning to look like the long run... [But] we don't know how long the long run is."

Johnson says with the economy growing roughly at trend and unemployment at near-record lows, public spending is "probably crowding out" some kind of private sector activity. But he says it's "perfectly plausible to argue" that public investment "is more valuable, and it's got a higher return to those than those things that it's crowding out".

Whatever they decide to do, politicians must be clear about what their tax and spending policies are trying to achieve, Johnson says.

Higher government spending can be justified, he says, but the argument has to be stronger than: "Interest rates are low, let's spend more."

GUEST OPINION

Fund managers must earn customers' trust

Industry chief exec **Chris Cummings** on life after Woodford

TODAY, three-quarters of UK households trust the investment management industry with their savings. Investment funds put those savings to work, helping people save for life's big events, whether that is getting on the first steps on the property ladder or planning for retirement. That is why when the industry finds itself in the headlines, we need to take a long hard look at the issues and learn the lessons.

For an investment fund run by a high profile manager to be suspended and closed is a very rare occurrence in an industry responsible for managing £7.7 trillion on behalf of millions of savers and investors. But it is one which clearly demands serious attention. A regulatory investigation into the circumstances surrounding the Woodford Equity Income Fund is underway and it will be important the results demonstrate that savers can be reassured that their hard-earned savings are in good hands.

With millions of people across the country using the services of investment managers, our industry has delivered successfully for savers over many years, even during the worst market conditions. It is an industry that has helped millions of people live more comfortable lives, not just here in the UK but around the world too.

Our customers benefit from a wide variety of funds designed to suit their needs, generating the long-term returns they are seeking. As an industry, we are world-leading in terms of the choice we offer savers and the robust regulations that our firms adhere to.

Every industry should however be focused on improving the service it offers its customers. And that is why, even when the events surrounding the closure of this fund were ongoing, we were working on ways to bring more confidence to our investors.

A series of significant measures are coming into force which should help to reassure our customers and demonstrate the value delivered by funds.

> We need to be able to explain what we do in a way that doesn't require an economics degree

Savers need to know where their money is being invested and that it is being overseen in a way that gives them confidence. That is why the industry is implementing assessments on whether their funds offer value for money, and these will be made available to investors each year — clearly demonstrating what is happening to the money we manage for them.

To ensure the strictness of the process, new independent non-executive directors are being appointed. They carry the responsibility for this important task.

Another important step is helping savers better understand their investments. Through auto-enrolment and the pension freedoms, more UK savers than ever before are relying on our industry to provide for their futures.

We need to be able to explain what we do in a way that doesn't require an economics degree. This means explaining the objectives of their funds in clear and simple language, so that savers can choose the products that best help them achieve their financial goals.

Looking ahead, we have also proposed a new long-term asset fund which can help to unlock the investment in infrastructure our communities and businesses dearly need, while helping savers spread their risk and sources of investment return.

Such a fund would be subject to rigorous customer protection measures to ensure confidence, investing over many decades and moving away from daily withdrawals.

This new type of fund would prevent the issues that we have seen recently, and going a step further we are issuing new guidance to investment management firms on how they manage risks and liquidity in investing.

By heeding the lessons and taking firm action, we want to demonstrate our determination to deliver returns for our savers and investors, helping them achieve their financial life goals.

Chris Cummings is chief executive of the Investment Association

G7 SUMMIT President Trump reverses decision to host world leaders at Miami resort next year following bipartisan backlash

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has cancelled plans to host next year's G7 summit at one of his Florida resorts after the plan received backlash from politicians. Critics said the resort would gain publicity from the event. In a series of tweets over the weekend, Trump blamed the reversal on "irrational hostility" by Democrats and the media.

IN BRIEF

LIB DEM SNUBS STEWART

Rory Stewart's support for Brexit makes him unfit to be mayor of London, according to one of his 2020 opponents. Liberal Democrats mayoral candidate Siobhan Benita slammed Stewart for not backing the Letwin amendment in parliament on Saturday. The proposal withheld parliamentary support for Boris Johnson's Brexit deal and effectively forced him to ask Brussels for a Brexit delay. She said Stewart's support for Johnson's Brexit deal showed he does not speak for London.

THREE DEAD IN CHILE RIOTS

At least three people died in supermarket arson attacks in Chile's capital Santiago, and soldiers shot two people during an operation to detain looters, authorities said, as protests entered their second week and intensified after a state of emergency was announced. There was transport deadlock in the city and chaos at the international airport, where flights into and out of Santiago were suspended or cancelled as crew members and airport staff were unable to get to work

PIGASSE QUITS LAZARD

Deal maker Matthieu Pigasse had resigned after 17 years at investment bank Lazard to pursue a new entrepreneurial project, the bank said yesterday. The flamboyant Pigasse, who has deep relationships with the French establishment, has talked to a small number of US advisory boutiques, sources had previously told Reuters. "I am excited to begin my next chapter beyond investment banking in a new entrepreneurial project," Lazard cited Pigasse as saying.

PARTNER CONTENT

CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTS, LONDON CITY AND THE FUTURE OF FLYING

LONDON CITY AIRPORT

Alison FitzGerald, Chief Operating Officer at London City Airport

Events of the past two weeks in London didn't need to happen for businesses like ours, and yours, to understand the seriousness of the climate change challenge. Indeed, many Londoners lasting impression will now be one of disruption and annoyance rather than the cause Extinction Rebellion (XR) promotes.

Before discussing these substantive issues, I must first say thank you to the Metropolitan Police, police from around the country and the British Transport Police who have come together to steadfastly keep London and Londoners moving and, crucially, safe.

XR made London City a target for a three-day shut down but by working closely with the police, we not only kept the airport open but connected 17,000 passengers to and from the Capital. Thankfully, despite some regrettable incidents at the airport, XR actions caused just two cancellations during their day-long protest, which ended 48 hours earlier than planned.

So thank you to the Met and colleagues for your professionalism and tireless support. That service is not taken for granted.

Now while we might disagree about their tactics, it's clear that the need to reduce global carbon emissions is now a mainstream topic of debate. No doubt, Extinction Rebellion have played a part, making these important issues a genuine matter of civic and societal debate.

We are under no illusions. UK aviation industry needs to play its part and we are absolutely alive to the challenge. At City, we have already reduced our own carbon emissions by 30% since 2013 and like other airports, have committed to becoming 'net-zero' by 2050. Meanwhile, our biggest customer, British Airways, part of one of the world's largest airline groups, IAG, has committed to net zero operations in the same period.

Without question, industry and Government needs to work closely together to meet those challenges. But rather than singling out particular industries, I believe we will move the dial by approaching this collaboratively across the globe, across sectors and by embracing innovation. I'm proud to be part of the Government's Future Flight Challenge Advisory Group, which is looking at doing exactly that.

While low carbon solutions for aviation are complex, the prospect of electric aircraft is not pie in the sky. In Norway, right now, Rolls Royce and the Norwegian airline Wideröe are collaborating on producing an electric, zero emission aircraft that could carry 100 passengers by 2030. That means hybrid and electric aircraft will fly first on the shorter routes that are our bread and butter. Readers should be assured that London City Airport is doing all we can to be at the forefront and to lead these changes!

> £10,000 prize to a local innovator if they can develop a sustainable alternative to plastic bags.

Meanwhile, there are undoubtedly things we can be getting on with in the short term and incremental change really matters. For example, while we invest in new security CT scanners for introduction in 2022, when liquids and laptops can stay in your bag, passengers will still be required to use non-recyclable plastic security bags for their liquids.

We were the first airport to ban plastic straws and we want to be the first airport to develop and use a truly sustainable alternative to plastic bags.

We need your help. That's why we are teaming with City AM, to offer a £10,000 prize to a local innovator in London if they have or can develop that product.

London City Airport embraces change and innovation and we are looking forward to seeing your solutions.

It is undeniable that uncertain times are upon us, and we need to keep development and innovation firmly and high on the agenda.

If you are interested, or want to know more, please email environment@londoncityairport.com

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

LONDON REPORT

FTSE 250 rises before fateful Brexit deal vote

LONDON's mid-cap index was higher on Friday ahead of Saturday's fateful parliamentary vote on the new Brexit deal, but miners slipped after data showed China's economic growth dropped to a near 30-year low.

The FTSE 250, up more than four per cent since last week as a flurry of Brexit updates fuelled optimism ahead of Boris Johnson's Brexit deal, before being voted down in the Commons.

Cybersecurity firm **Avast** rose 8.6 per cent after its results and helped the index outperform the European benchmark .

The FTSE 100 edged 0.4 per cent lower, as Brexit-sensitive stocks such as housebuilder **Persimmon** and domestic bank **RBS** rose three per cent, respectively, offsetting weakness in miners .

Worries over how the protracted dispute between Washington and Beijing has damaged economic growth were rekindled after China's third-quarter GDP slowed more-than-expected.

At home, traders eyed Saturday's vote on the new Brexit accord between Brussels and London. Analysts' warnings of volatility began to sink in when the deal was ultimately voted down.

Shares in **London Stock Exchange Group**, whose shareholders are due to vote on its purchase of data analytics platform Refinitiv next month, outperformed the main index with a 2.4 per cent rise on higher-than-expected third-quarter income.

However, consumer goods giants **Unilever** and **Diageo** lost 0.5 per cent and one per cent respectively after downbeat earnings and forecast from their respective French peers Danone and Remy Cointreau.

Drinks maker Diageo took a slight hit after downbeat earnings

The blue-chips were also hurt by a 4.6 per cent dip in **Intercontinental Hotels** after the Holiday Inn-owner blamed lower business bookings in China and protests in Hong Kong for a drop in revenue.

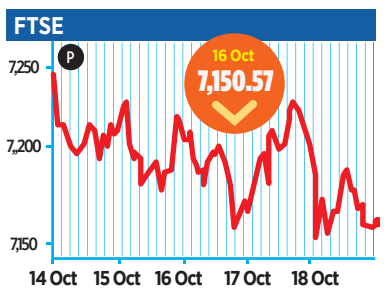
Aim-listed firm **Elegant Hotels**, which operates hotels and restaurants in Barbados, soared almost 56.5 per cent to hover slightly below the 110p per share price offered by Marriott to buy the company.

TOP RISERS

1. **RBS** Up 2.63 per cent
2. **Aveva** Up 1.76 per cent
3. **ITV** Up 1.74 per cent

TOP FALLERS

1. **Intercontinental** Down 4.58 per cent
2. **Evraz** Down 4.58 per cent
3. **Relx** Down 2.55 per cent



BEST OF THE BROKERS

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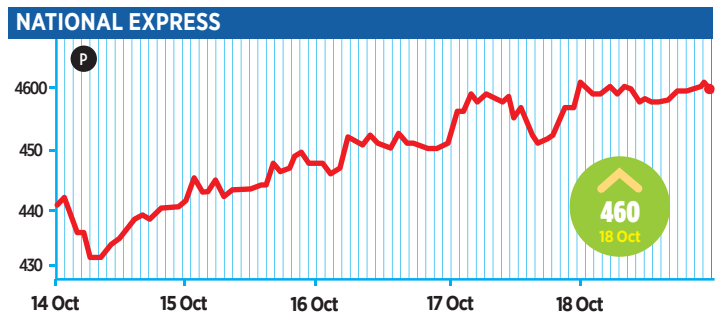
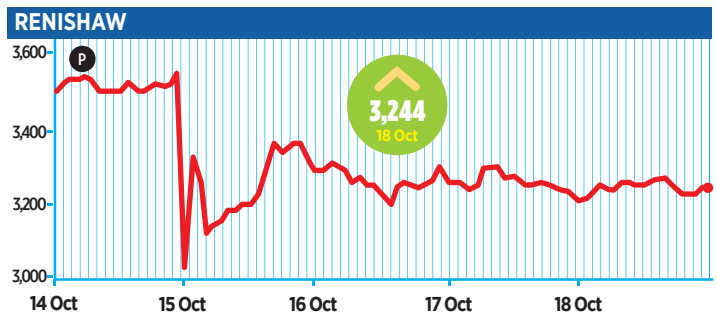
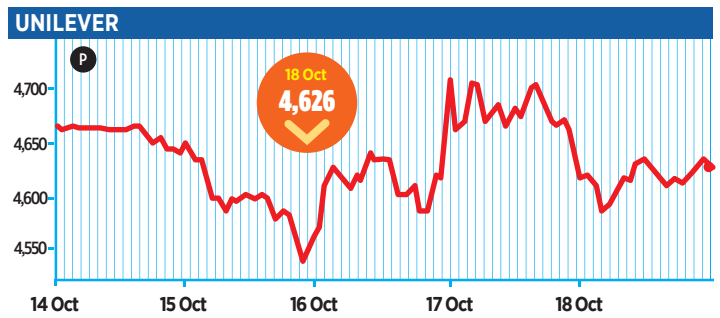


Transport giant National Express has been on the road to success in 2019, its results last week showed. It made £5m in coach sales per week in August, as an "outstanding" summer led to revenue in the UK increasing 10.1 per cent. Analysts at broker Canaccord Genuity say: "National Express is a quality operator, delivering best-in-class margins in virtually all its businesses." They are particularly excited by its "progressive dividend policy" and note the firm is driving up North American revenue. They say "buy" with an increased target price of 515p.



Engineering firm Renishaw had a difficult time last week after issuing a profit warning and admitting it was Reni-unsure about future trading. The firm said adjusted profit before tax was £4.3m in the three months to the end of September, just a fraction of the £32.6m profit seen a year earlier. Analysts at broker Peel Hunt say the fall came "as a surprise". But they say "the model remains intact and the long-term structural drivers are unchanged". Peel Hunt maintains its "reduce" rating on the stock, citing industry weakness. It downgrades the target price to 2,700p.



Consumer goods giant Unilever missed City estimates last week as tough weather and a slowdown in several emerging markets dented sales. The Ben and Jerry's ice cream maker posted underlying sales growth of €13.3bn (£11.5bn) for the third quarter, marking a 2.9 per cent rise that narrowly came below consensus expectations. Liberum brokers take note of this but highlight management's commitment to investing for the future and focus on shareholder returns. They give the stock a rating of "hold" with a target price of 4,735p.

NEW YORK REPORT

Wall St drags on Boeing and Chinese data

WALL Street fell on Friday as negative headlines about **Johnson & Johnson** and **Boeing**, along with bleak economic data from China, soured investor risk appetite and offset generally positive corporate earnings.

All three major US stock averages ended the session in the red, but the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq posted weekly gains. The blue-chip Dow was nominally lower than the close a week earlier.

Boeing and Johnson & Johnson shares led both the S&P 500's and the Dow's declines.

Boeing dropped 6.8 per cent after Reuters reported that text messages between two employees suggested the plane maker misled the US Federal Aviation Administration about the safety of the grounded 737 Max aircraft.

Johnson & Johnson announced it would recall baby powder in the United States after regulators found trace amounts of asbestos in a sample, sending its shares falling 6.2 per cent.

Growth of China's GDP slowed to its weakest pace in nearly 30 years as the bruising trade war with the US took its toll, stoking fears of slowdown contagion.

The International Monetary Fund lowered its forecast for global growth this year to three per cent, which mark the slowest expansion since the financial crisis.

Third-quarter earnings season has hit full stride, with 73 companies in the S&P 500 having reported. Of those, 83.6 per cent have come in above average estimates, according to Refinitiv data.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 255.68 points, or 0.95 per cent, to 26,770.2, the S&P 500 lost 11.75 points, or 0.39 per cent, to 2,986.2 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 67.31 points, or 0.83 per cent, to 8,089.54.

Of the 11 major sectors in the S&P 500, seven closed in the red, with tech, communications services and industrials suffering the biggest percentage declines.

CITY MOVES WHO'S SWITCHING JOBS

KEMP LITTLE

Leading technology and digital media law firm Kemp Little has announced that Matthew Irvine has joined the firm as an IT disputes partner. Matthew joins the company from international law firm Pinsent Masons. Matthew is a specialist disputes lawyer who helps clients to get distressed IT projects back on track. He has been involved in disputes relating to some of the largest and most complex IT projects in the UK. He advises both customers and suppliers, and has extensive experience in litigation, arbitration, mediation and other forms of dispute resolution. Commenting on his appointment, Matthew said: "It's fantastic to join a firm with such high profile technology clients and the deep expertise to service them."

FLADGATE

Top 100 UK law firm Fladgate has announced the appointment of construction and engineering expert Elliot Lewis as partner in the firm's construction team. Elliot joins from Brecher, having previously worked at Davies Arnold Cooper (now DAC Beachcroft), Titmuss Sainer Dechert, McKenna & Co and Nabarro Nathanson. Elliot specialises in advising clients on UK domestic development including systems of procurements and tendering, all forms of building contracts, appointments, warranties, bonds and associated documentation as well as funding and development agreements and informal dispute resolution. He has acted for a range of funders, developers, contractors and consultants and several major residential developers on large scale multi-phase residential and mixed use schemes. Head of construction David Weare commented: "I am delighted to be working with Elliot after a gap of nearly ten years. We were partners at DAC. Elliot's arrival is another step in the ongoing success and growth of Fladgate's construction practice which goes from strength to strength."

UNITE

The Unite Group, which owns Unite Students — the UK's largest manager and developer of purpose-built student accommodation — has appointed Dame Shirley Pierce as a non-executive director. Dame Shirley has held chair, senior executive and non-executive roles of board level in higher education, health and policing. She was appointed by the secretary of state for education as the independent reviewer of the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework, and is a member of the Committee of Standards in Public Life. She was appointed CBE in 2005 for services to education in the NHS and in 2014 appointed DBE for services to Higher Education.

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FTSE 100	FTSE 250	FTSE ALL SHARE	DOW JONES	NASDAQ	S&P 500
7150.57	20228.53	3956.89	26770.20	8089.54	2986.20
31.75 ↓	7.42 ↑	13.91 ↓	255.68 ↓	67.31 ↓	11.75 ↓

£					
/€	1.1596	↑ 0.0013	€/$	1.1174	↑ 0.0047
/$	1.2989	↑ 0.0101	€/£	0.8620	↓ 0.0012
/¥	140.61	↑ 0.9940	€/¥	121.20	↑ 0.3300

GILTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Tsy 4.750 20	101.51	-0.01	105.5	101.5
Tsy 2.500 20	354.60	-0.00	360.9	352.8
Tsy 2.000 20	100.97	0.01	102.2	100.9
Tsy 3.750 20	102.71	0.02	105.6	102.5
Tsy 8.000 21	112.07	0.01	118.7	111.7
Tsy 1.875 22	114.34	-0.19	118.3	114.0
Tsy 0.500 22	100.06	0.03	100.8	98.2
Tsy 4.000 22	108.33	0.02	110.7	108.3
Tsy 2.250 23	106.79	0.02	108.0	105.3
Tsy 2.500 24	366.28	-0.24	377.9	360.3
Tsy 0.125 24	112.14	-0.24	115.8	110.9
Tsy 5.000 25	123.85	0.03	126.1	122.9
Tsy 4.250 27	129.58	0.02	132.8	124.0
Tsy 1.250 27	134.42	-0.20	141.1	129.2
Tsy 6.000 28	147.93	0.01	152.2	142.1
Tsy 0.125 29	127.99	-0.23	134.7	119.8
Tsy 4.750 30	143.13	0.01	147.9	133.9
Tsy 4.125 30	383.14	-0.23	404.2	359.8
Tsy 4.250 32	140.96	-0.04	146.4	130.3
Tsy 1.250 32	156.73	-0.61	167.7	145.5
Tsy 4.250 36	148.98	-0.08	155.7	135.0
Tsy 0.125 36	149.16	-0.88	162.5	135.4
Tsy 4.750 38	163.68	-0.10	171.8	147.0
Tsy 0.625 40	169.76	-0.96	185.7	153.4
Tsy 4.500 42	167.82	-0.11	176.7	147.2
Tsy 3.500 45	150.46	-0.15	159.0	128.9
Tsy 4.250 46	171.05	-0.15	181.0	146.4
Tsy 4.025 49	177.71	-0.18	188.9	150.5
Tsy 0.500 50	198.73	-1.19	222.9	173.7
Tsy 0.250 52	195.43	-1.14	221.1	168.88

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BAE Systems	539.8	-0.2	588.2	443.9
Cobham	156.3	0.1	168.3	96.8
Meggitt	589.8	-8.4	643.0	458.0
QinetiQ Group	308.0	4.4	312.4	267.0
Rolls-Royce Holdi	711.6	-18.0	988.4	702.8
Senior	180.3	4.3	278.6	174.0
Ultra Electronics	1933.0	-13.0	2252.0	1232.0

BANKS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bank of Georgia G	1333.0	2.0	1755.0	1252.0
Barclays	165.0	1.0	178.9	136.2
Close Brothers Gr	1417.0	18.0	1605.0	1227.0
CYBG	133.2	-4.0	275.8	104.4
HSBC Holdings	601.6	-4.8	680.6	580.9
Lloyds Banking Gr	60.2	-0.8	66.6	48.6
Royal Bank of Sco	238.3	6.1	270.4	177.7
Standard Chartere	651.4	-8.0	736.8	519.8
TBC Bank Group	1254.0	8.0	1710.0	1150.0

BEVERAGES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barr (A.G.)	555.0	-3.0	975.0	543.0
Britvic	1055.0	-13.0	1068.0	764.5
Coca-Cola HBC AG	2406.0	6.0	3074.0	2244.0
Diageo	3116.5	-29.5	3625.5	2624.5

CHEMICALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Croda Internation	4730.0	-18.0	5375.0	4564.0
Elementis	150.2	1.7	219.4	129.8
Johnson Matthey	2986.0	-43.0	3454.0	2620.0
Sirius Minerals	3.5	0.0	24.7	2.9
Synthomer	297.6	0.0	434.1	279.8
Victrex plc	2156.0	8.0	2720.0	1845.0

CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Balfour Beatty	230.2	0.2	295.0	194.2
CRH	2713.0	-2.0	2837.0	1971.5
Galliford Try	773.0	5.5	900.5	512.0
Ibstock	258.0	3.0	262.0	193.1
Marshalls	722.0	1.0	740.0	415.0
Polypipe Group	442.0	2.0	453.8	307.8

ELECTRICITY

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Contour Global	184.0	-1.0	218.0	150.1
Drax Group	304.0	9.0	427.2	251.0
SSE	1308.5	-4.5	1319.0	1008.0

ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQ.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Halma	1854.0	-15.5	2094.0	1237.0
Morgan Advanced M	234.2	0.0	291.0	233.8
Oxford Instrument	1288.0	-20.0	1424.0	842.0
Renishaw	3244.0	10.0	4670.0	3180.5
Spectris	2312.0	52.0	2898.0	1966.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT INSTRUM.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aberforth Smaller	1346.0	10.0	1356.0	1114.0
Alliance Trust	777.0	-6.0	838.0	672.0
Apax Global Alpha	161.5	-0.5	162.5	127.0
AVI Global Trust	726.0	-10.0	781.0	660.0
Baillie Gifford J	797.0	-3.0	840.0	663.0
Bankers Inv Trust	931.0	-4.0	970.0	766.0
BBGI SICAV S.A. (	164.0	-0.5	168.0	146.5
BlackRock Smaller	1464.0	4.0	1482.0	1160.0
BMO Global Smalle	1350.0	-2.0	1406.0	1220.0
Caledonia Investm	3005.0	15.0	3110.0	2650.0
City of London In	420.0	-1.0	431.5	376.0
Edinburgh Inv Tru	605.0	-1.0	654.0	535.0
F&C Investment Tr	694.0	3.0	731.0	616.0
Fidelity China Sp	208.5	-2.0	250.0	182.4
Fidelity European	247.0	-0.5	257.5	202.0
Fidelity Special	268.0	2.0	270.5	220.0
Finsbury Growth &	876.0	-6.0	958.0	741.0
Foresight Solar F	119.0	1.0	126.0	107.5
GCP Infrastructur	130.2	0.2	131.0	122.4
Genesis Emerging	765.0	9.0	783.0	615.0
Greencoat UK Wind	148.0	1.0	148.0	124.4
HarbourVest Globa	1708.0	-4.0	1786.0	1326.0
Herald Investment	1294.0	10.0	1364.0	1055.0
HGCapital Trust	227.0	0.5	237.0	175.0
HICL Infrastructu	171.0	0.4	171.7	149.9
International Pub	156.6	0.6	165.4	146.8
JPMorgan American	459.5	-2.5	494.5	386.5
JPMorgan Emerging	977.0	-7.0	1066.0	759.0
JPMorgan Indian I	738.0	13.0	790.0	586.0
JPMorgan Japanese	441.0	-3.0	457.0	367.0
Jupiter European	777.0	-11.0	875.0	666.0
Law Debenture Cor	594.0	0.0	618.0	534.0
Mercantile Invest	230.0	1.0	230.0	168.0
Monks Inv Trust	880.0	-7.0	964.0	710.0
Murray Internatio	1198.0	-4.0	1212.0	1058.0
NB Global Floatin	88.9	0.1	92.4	87.6
NextEnergy Solar	122.0	1.0	124.5	109.0
Pantheon Internat	2305.0	-5.0	2330.0	1955.0
Perpetual Income	316.5	1.0	341.0	284.5
Pershing Square H	1504.0	8.0	1570.0	990.0
Personal Assets T	41750.0	0.0	43150.0	38900.0
Polar Capital Tec	1410.0	-12.0	1500.0	1066.0
RIT Capital Partn	2120.0	-5.0	2170.0	1892.0
Riverstone Energy	517.0	-6.0	1266.0	485.0
Schroder Asia Pac	429.0	-4.5	469.5	379.0
Scottish Inv Trus	822.0	-4.0	843.0	748.0
Scottish Mortgage	479.2	-8.2	568.5	441.4
Sequoia Economic	115.6	0.0	117.6	108.0
Smithson Investme	1210.0	-6.0	1280.0	1000.2
Syncona Limited N	238.5	0.5	294.0	213.5
Temple Bar Inv Tr	1342.0	6.0	1366.0	1116.0
Templeton Emergin	773.0	-4.0	829.0	651.0
The Renewables In	131.8	-0.4	133.2	109.3
TR Property Inv T	450.0	2.5	450.0	353.5
Vietnam Enterpris	498.0	-1.0	509.0	421.5
VinaCapital Vietn	352.0	0.0	357.5	319.0
Witan Inv Trust	215.0	0.5	225.5	189.6
Worldwide Healthc	2520.0	-25.0	2835.0	2325.0

FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3i Group	1081.5	-1.5	1184.5	756.2
3i Infrastructure	287.5	0.5	306.5	241.3
AJ Bell	387.5	4.5	477.0	220.0
Allied Minds	47.0	-0.3	84.2	37.3
Amigo Holdings	78.7	0.0	297.5	67.8
Arrow Global Grou	220.0	2.6	273.0	167.2
ASA International	302.5	-3.0	481.0	302.5
Ashmore Group	479.8	-10.2	542.5	341.2
Brewin Dolphin Ho	335.6	0.4	358.0	287.6
City of London In	435.0	5.0	440.0	360.0
CMC Markets	130.6	0.6	133.2	77.4
Coats Group	71.0	-1.0	91.3	69.1
Georgia Capital	984.0	3.0	1260.0	941.0
Hargreaves Lansdo	1739.0	-37.5	2433.0	1633.0
IG Group Holdings	610.0	-5.2	644.5	474.8
IntegraFin Holdin	366.0	-2.0	406.1	269.0
Intermediate Capi	1425.0	-15.0	1460.0	899.0
International Per	105.0	-3.0	222.2	87.0
Investec	429.9	1.5	518.6	395.3
IP Group	65.0	-1.3	122.0	55.7
John Laing Group	378.4	1.4	402.0	296.2
JTC	375.0	8.0	440.0	287.0
Jupiter Fund Mana	331.7	2.5	432.0	287.6
Liontrust Asset M	756.0	16.0	816.0	532.0
LMS Capital	58.3	0.0	59.5	44.0
London Finance &	37.5	0.0	41.5	37.5
London Stock Exch	7102.0	58.0	7514.0	3867.0
Man Group	151.8	-1.2	175.2	126.8
OneSavings Bank	372.4	-17.2	447.4	313.6
Paragon Banking G	496.2	-4.3	508.0	379.2
Plus500 Ltd (DI)	792.6	15.2	1647.0	495.0
Provident Financi	430.2	0.0	658.6	356.0
Quilter	144.1	1.5	156.6	110.6
Rathbone Brothers	2155.0	-15.0	2540.0	2085.0
Real Estate Credi	167.5	-1.5	175.5	163.0
Record	34.0	0.0	35.4	27.3
River and Mercant	240.0	-6.0	303.0	212.0
S&U	2100.0	-20.0	2440.0	1767.5
Sanne Group	535.0	-15.0	752.0	450.0
Schroders	3022.0	9.0	3210.0	2334.0
Standard Life Abe	283.8	-1.9	310.4	224.9
TP ICAP	330.0	-2.6	346.9	268.2
Walker Crips Grou	26.5	0.0	35.5	24.0
XPS Pensions Grou	119.5	-1.5	171.0	95.0

FIXED LINE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BT Group	206.3	2.0	264.7	158.9
TalkTalk Telecom	113.0	-1.0	132.8	96.6
Telecom Plus	1196.0	-4.0	1528.0	1130.0

FOOD & DRUG RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Greggs	1870.0	-12.0	2476.0	1115.0
Morrison (Wm) Sup	203.6	-0.3	255.1	176.9
Ocado Group	1330.0	-31.0	1435.0	749.8
Sainsbury (J)	216.2	-2.6	324.0	177.1
SSP Group	663.0	0.0	721.0	608.0
Tesco	244.0	1.4	253.0	189.6
UDG Healthcare Pu	749.5	-12.5	821.0	551.0

FOOD PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Associated Britis	2229.0	-5.0	2638.0	2041.0
Bakkavor Group	127.6	-1.8	170.0	93.3
Cranswick	3408.0	26.0	3414.0	2472.0
Greencore Group	238.5	-0.1	239.4	162.9
Hilton Food Group	1050.0	6.0	1088.0	884.0
Tate & Lyle	673.0	-11.6	800.4	657.4
Unilever	4626.0	-26.5	5324.0	3941.0

FORESTRY & PAPER

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Mondi	1538.5	5.0	1898.0	1510.5

GAS, WATER & MULTIUTILITIES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Centrica	70.0	0.3	155.6	64.6
National Grid	900.0	1.0	904.2	748.7
Pennon Group	902.8	4.8	906.0	684.2
Severn Trent	2270.0	20.0	2297.0	1770.0
United Utilities	877.8	5.2	890.0	709.0

GENERAL INDUSTRIALS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Smith (DS)	338.8	4.6	403.9	292.2
Smiths Group	1577.0	1.5	1692.0	1279.5
Smurfit Kappa Gro	2468.0	24.0	2686.0	1934.0
Vesuvius	358.0	0.0	642.0	341.0

GENERAL RETAILERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Auto Trader Group	530.0	-7.8	606.0	388.5
B&M European Valu	382.3	1.0	426.3	278.6
Card Factory	172.3	-1.1	209.0	151.2
Dixons Carphone	134.2	0.4	178.6	104.9
Dunelm Group	863.0	0.5	981.0	482.8
Inchcape	651.5	4.5	653.0	486.6
JD Sports Fashion	770.0	-6.4	781.0	318.5
Just Eat	625.0	-8.4	812.0	533.8
Kingfisher	215.4	-0.5	266.2	185.9
Marks & Spencer G	200.6	-0.1	299.1	163.9
Next	6736.0	-28.0	6830.0	3991.0
Pets at Home Grou	223.6	-3.0	239.4	110.0
Sports Direct Int	325.6	6.4	340.3	214.0
Vivo Energy	120.0	0.0	139.5	96.0
WH Smith	2288.0	78.0	2294.0	1697.0

HEALTH CARE EQUIPMETN & S.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Assura	75.4	1.5	75.4	52.4
Convatec Group	183.1	-0.1	186.5	118.6
Mediclinic Intern	377.4	-7.5	403.2	293.4
NMC Health	2650.0	39.0	3678.0	1801.5
Smith & Nephew	1829.5	-14.0	1990.0	1258.0

HHOLD GDS & HOME CONSTR.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Barratt Developme	674.2	3.2	685.8	434.0
Bellway	3379.0	19.0	3536.0	2419.0
Berkeley Group Ho	4528.0	67.0	4592.0	3226.0
Bovis Homes Group	1226.0	15.0	1241.0	828.0
Countryside Prope	366.6	8.2	368.4	270.0
Crest Nicholson H	432.0	7.2	437.2	300.0
McCarthy & Stone	157.0	1.2	157.5	123.5
Persimmon	2400.0	32.0	2471.0	1836.0
Reckitt Benckiser	6005.0	-14.0	6747.0	5593.0
Redrow	649.0	4.0	674.6	460.8
Taylor Wimpey	165.5	-0.1	192.3	129.3

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Bodycote	683.0	16.0	903.0	652.0
Hill & Smith Hold	1324.0	6.0	1324.0	902.5
IMI	968.2	0.2	1069.5	870.0
Melrose Industrie	206.0	-3.0	209.0	146.3
RHI Magnesita N.V	3570.0	18.0	5000.0	3318.0
Rotork	299.2	-0.3	324.2	235.7
Spirax-Sarco Engi	7500.0	0.0	9400.0	5900.0
Weir Group	1364.0	-8.5	1814.0	1240.0

INDUSTRIAL METALS & MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Evraz	375.2	-18.0	709.4	375.2
Ferrexpo	133.5	-0.4	301.3	132.5

INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BBA Aviation	299.4	-2.6	324.8	207.0
Clarkson	2830.0	-15.0	2900.0	1878.0
Fisher (James) &	1976.0	-4.0	2260.0	1600.0
Royal Mail	220.0	0.8	367.7	188.4

NON LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Admiral Group	2054.0	1.0	2300.0	1935.0
Beazley	612.0	0.0	628.0	492.6
Direct Line Insur	290.1	1.3	366.5	273.2
Hastings Group Ho	191.0	-4.2	231.6	174.0
Hiscox Limited (D	1544.0	3.0	1777.0	1418.0
Lancashire Holdin	703.0	9.0	746.0	561.5
RSA Insurance Gro	529.2	5.0	597.0	496.6
Sabre Insurance G	298.0	-8.5	306.5	249.0

LIFE INSURANCE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aviva	412.2	4.2	438.8	352.3
Legal & General G	275.4	0.4	291.2	216.7
Phoenix Group Hol	714.2	-4.6	724.8	544.0
Prudential	1506.0	8.0	1790.0	1326.0
St James's Place	1004.5	0.0	1143.0	913.6

MEDIA

	Price	Chg	High	Low
4imprint Group	3050.0	-10.0	3130.0	1800.0
Ascential	361.2	-1.2	411.0	337.2
Bloomsbury Publis	257.0	6.0	257.0	190.5
Centaur Media	32.5	-3.0	56.5	32.0
Entertainment One	558.5	0.0	589.0	336.4
Euromoney Institu	1400.0	-14.0	1498.0	1132.0
Future	1222.0	-20.0	1324.0	412.0
Goco Group	101.8	1.8	102.0	64.6
Haynes Publishing	311.0	0.0	324.0	160.0
Huntsworth	90.0	1.0	118.5	81.0
Hyve Group	79.0	-0.7	85.3	56.3
Informa	767.0	-3.0	892.0	605.8
ITV	137.4	2.4	158.8	103.6
Moneysupermarket.	339.8	-7.3	417.7	267.0
Pearson	674.6	-7.6	1027.5	673.4
Reach	99.0	0.0	102.0	54.6
Relx plc	1739.5	-45.5	2011.0	1506.0
Rightmove	559.6	-0.4	585.1	420.9
STV Group	389.5	1.5	400.0	318.0
WPP	916.2	-3.2	1056.0	800.4

MINING

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Anglo American	1899.8	2.2	2266.0	1539.0
Antofagasta	867.4	2.0	1022.5	727.2
BHP Group	1600.0	-6.0	2049.0	1490.6
Centamin (DI)	109.2	-1.1	152.4	79.8
Fresnillo	616.0	-0.4	1027.5	601.0
Glencore	227.6	-1.0	340.3	222.2
Hochschild Mining	187.9	-3.0	227.0	149.9
Kaz Minerals	434.1	1.9	738.4	380.3
Polymetal Interna	1173.0	4.5	1208.5	700.2
Rio Tinto	3961.5	0.0	4976.5	3513.5

MOBILE TELECOMS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Inmarsat	555.8	2.2	608.2	362.8
Vodafone Group	160.5	0.0	168.9	123.3

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BP	485.1	-3.2	582.5	484.0
Cairn Energy	194.6	0.8	214.2	140.0
Energean Oil & Ga	957.0	-12.0	1082.0	568.0
Premier Oil	83.0	1.9	121.0	55.6
Royal Dutch Shell	2240.0	-18.5	2612.0	2213.0
Royal Dutch Shell	2226.5	-19.5	2622.0	2224.5
Tullow Oil	203.9	-3.3	250.0	165.2

OIL EQUIPMENT & SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Hunting	407.2	1.2	712.0	400.4
Petrofac Ltd.	405.3	-0.4	595.4	381.5
Wood Group (John)	347.9	-6.1	733.8	327.4

PERSONAL GOODS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Burberry Group	1876.0	-39.0	2345.0	1623.5
PZ Cussons	207.5	3.0	244.0	178.6

PHARMACEUTICALS & BIOTECH

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AstraZeneca	6772.0	-49.0	7533.0	5325.0
Dechra Pharmaceut	2626.0	-50.0	3036.0	2014.0
Genus	2948.0	-18.0	3062.0	2124.0
GlaxoSmithKline	1646.2	-5.6	1745.2	1418.0
Hikma Pharmaceuti	1993.0	-17.0	2200.0	1510.5
PureTech Health	252.0	0.0	292.0	160.5

REAL ESTATE INVEST. & SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
BMO Commercial Pr	120.8	0.6	141.8	106.0
Capital & Countie	249.8	4.6	279.5	184.9
CLS Holdings	262.5	-4.0	271.5	195.4
Daejan Holdings	4975.0	-10.0	6160.0	4715.0
Grainger	265.0	-1.0	268.4	205.8
NewRiver REIT	211.0	1.0	262.0	147.6
Safestore Holding	690.5	9.0	700.0	506.5
Savills	941.5	4.5	957.0	678.5
Sirius Real Estat	73.6	-0.3	75.9	55.6
St. Modwen Proper	468.0	-4.0	473.1	366.6

REAL ESTATE INVEST. TRUSTS

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Big Yellow Group	1140.0	3.0	1151.0	855.5
British Land Comp	629.4	-0.8	638.0	468.3
Derwent London	3622.0	14.0	3666.0	2779.0
Great Portland Es	798.0	14.0	802.4	649.4
Hammerson	312.3	-3.5	447.3	203.9
Land Securities G	960.8	12.6	969.0	735.4
LondonMetric Prop	229.2	0.2	230.2	172.7
Primary Health Pr	141.0	0.8	141.0	108.0
SEGRO	835.0	12.6	836.6	585.2
Shaftesbury	962.5	5.5	966.0	739.5
Tritax Big Box Re	151.0	-1.1	159.7	129.0
Unite Group	1150.0	-4.0	1174.0	797.5
Workspace Group	1001.0	-21.0	1031.0	789.5

SOFTWARE & COMPUTER SERV.

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Avast	401.2	31.8	402.6	259.6
Aveva Group	3924.0	68.0	4170.0	2284.0
Computacenter	1279.0	-12.0	1525.0	952.0
FDM Group (Holdin	703.0	-8.0	994.0	647.0
Kainos Group	496.0	4.0	676.0	372.0
Micro Focus Inter	1087.6	-48.6	2491.6	1039.0
Playtech	399.2	0.2	500.6	360.5
Sage Group	690.0	-10.2	820.4	525.6
Softcat	971.5	-1.0	1044.0	565.0
Sophos Group	565.8	-0.4	577.0	298.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Aggreko	784.4	3.8	858.4	691.8
Ashtead Group	2155.0	26.0	2344.0	1586.5
BCA Marketplace	236.2	0.4	247.0	178.5
Bunzl	1964.0	-21.0	2551.0	1954.0
Capita	170.7	-2.2	175.5	99.9
DCC	7032.0	14.0	7184.0	5555.0
Diploma	1681.0	-6.0	1696.0	1150.0
Electrocomponents	655.2	-5.2	672.8	480.0
Equiniti Group	226.8	-3.2	236.2	186.2
Essentra	419.8	-4.0	442.0	325.4
Experian	2371.0	-32.0	2631.0	1750.0
Ferguson	6434.0	64.0	6436.0	4749.0
Finablr	151.6	2.2	180.0	140.0
G4S	202.5	4.4	234.3	168.3
Grafton Group Uni	822.5	41.0	937.0	630.0
Hays	160.1	1.0	165.3	135.7
Homeserve	1146.0	-3.0	1263.0	849.0
Howden Joinery Gr	570.0	9.4	580.0	416.4
Intertek Group	4934.0	-96.0	5962.0	4387.0
Network Internati	550.0	-10.0	628.0	500.0
Pagegroup	431.8	11.8	539.0	367.8
PayPoint	905.0	-15.0	1118.0	748.0
Rentokil Initial	449.4	-3.6	467.8	284.8
Robert Walters	490.0	-4.0	497.0	483.0
Serco Group	156.1	0.2	157.5	84.1
SIG	118.3	3.3	153.0	99.4

TOBACCO

	Price	Chg	High	Low
British American	2663.5	-18.5	3619.0	2375.0
Imperial Brands	1863.0	25.0	2750.0	1774.6

TRAVEL & LEISURE

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Carnival	3060.0	-17.0	4650.0	3037.0
Cineworld Group	221.3	-2.2	321.0	212.0
Compass Group	1926.5	-13.5	2138.0	1483.0
Domino's Pizza Gr	274.0	-3.0	297.2	221.2
EI Group	282.0	0.4	285.0	161.8
FirstGroup	134.1	1.0	137.5	79.3
Flutter Entertain	7520.0	50.0	8164.0	5525.0
Go-Ahead Group	2188.0	-32.0	2226.0	1480.0
Greene King	848.8	-0.2	850.0	480.0
GVC Holdings	852.4	12.8	960.0	507.5
InterContinental	4520.0	-217.0	5738.0	3958.4
International Con	508.6	-4.6	667.6	413.5
Marston's	120.5	1.5	131.3	90.6
Merlin Entertainm	454.6	0.6	454.8	307.1
Millennium & Copt	687.0	0.0	690.0	436.0
Mitchells & Butle	432.0	3.0	433.5	238.0
National Express	460.0	2.6	461.6	361.4
PPHE Hotel Group	1850.0	-10.0	1990.0	1525.0
Rank Group	215.0	-3.5	218.5	135.0
Restaurant Group	150.1	-0.6	217.1	111.9
Stagecoach Group	150.2	0.2	177.0	115.5
TUI AG Reg Shs (D	1049.0	-8.5	1336.0	698.0
Wetherspoon (J.D.	1520.0	-27.0	1624.0	1066.0
Whitbread	4223.0	-52.0	5114.0	3988.0
William Hill	202.0	-0.9	230.0	132.3
Wizz Air Holdings	3886.0	41.0	3905.9	2369.0

AIM 50

	Price	Chg	High	Low
Abcam	1150.0	-6.0	1500.0	1017.0
Advanced Medical	240.5	3.0	354.5	225.0
Alliance Pharma	71.0	-0.9	80.4	60.0
ASOS	3293.0	-151.0	6050.0	2107.0
Blue Prism Group	840.0	-24.0	2002.0	840.0
Brooks Macdonald	2060.0	-25.0	2169.2	1367.5
Camellia	9325.0	0.0	11750.0	9250.0
CareTech Holding	377.0	8.0	406.0	325.0
Central Asia Meta	206.0	-2.5	266.5	180.0
Ceres Power Holdi	212.0	0.0	220.0	130.0
Clinigen Group	805.5	-14.5	1069.0	721.0
CVS Group	963.5	-19.0	1029.0	395.0
Dart Group	1236.0	67.0	1236.0	709.5
Diversified Gas &	112.0	2.5	134.0	97.0
Draper Esprit	470.0	1.0	610.0	410.0
Eland Oil & Gas	163.4	0.0	164.6	97.0
EMIS Group	975.0	-33.0	1242.0	864.0
Fevertree Drinks	2125.0	-42.0	3199.0	2070.0
First Derivatives	2135.0	15.0	3555.0	2050.0
Frontier Developm	1100.0	30.0	1160.0	740.0
Gamma Communicati	1115.0	0.0	1195.0	688.0
GB Group	527.0	-3.0	631.0	410.5
Gooch & Housego	1115.0	10.0	1880.0	954.0
Hurricane Energy	42.9	-1.2	60.8	38.7
Impax Asset Manag	257.5	-7.5	295.0	184.0
Iomart Group	357.5	2.0	425.0	308.0
IQE	61.6	0.1	98.0	47.6
James Halstead	518.0	0.0	532.0	367.0
Johnson Service G	172.6	2.6	183.2	113.6
Keywords Studios	1170.0	-59.0	1838.0	900.0
Learning Technolo	101.0	-3.6	130.0	62.2
M. P. Evans Group	648.0	5.0	722.0	612.0
Midwich Group	511.0	5.0	633.0	474.5
Mortgage Advice B	570.0	-17.0	620.0	490.0
Next Fifteen Comm	498.5	13.5	658.0	471.0
Nichols	1587.5	2.5	1880.0	1240.0
Numis Corporation	233.5	-2.0	301.0	212.0
Pan African Resou	11.3	-0.0	14.5	8.0
Polar Capital Hol	538.0	34.0	610.0	448.0
Purplebricks Grou	111.0	2.0	232.4	90.0
Redde	114.4	-2.4	187.0	90.0
Renew Holdings	377.0	17.0	436.5	333.0
RWS Holdings	575.0	-5.0	652.0	450.0
Scapa Group	220.0	1.0	445.0	157.0
Secure Income Rei	433.0	1.0	454.0	371.0
Serica Energy	127.0	-3.0	142.0	103.6
Smart Metering Sy	457.0	2.8	665.0	310.0
Thorpe (F.W.)	288.0	0.0	340.0	248.0
Watkin Jones	236.0	4.5	238.5	192.2
Young & Co's Brew	1590.0	-7.5	1885.0	1322.5
Young & Co's Brew	1140.0	0.0	1195.0	1030.0

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MAIN CHANGES UK 350

Risers ↑		%
Avast	401.2	8.6
Grafton Group Unit	822.5	5.3
WH Smith	2288.0	3.5
Drax Group	304.0	3.1
Watches of Switzer	284.5	2.9
SIG	118.3	2.9
Pagegroup	431.8	2.8
Royal Bank of Scot	238.3	2.6
Senior	180.3	2.4
Bodycote	683.0	2.4

Fallers ↓		%
Evraz	375.2	-4.6
InterContinental H	4520.0	-4.6
OneSavings Bank	372.4	-4.4
Aston Martin Lagon	477.6	-4.4
Micro Focus Intern	1087.6	-4.3
CYBG	133.2	-2.9
Sabre Insurance Gr	298.0	-2.8
Sanne Group	535.0	-2.7
Relx plc	1739.5	-2.6
Rolls-Royce Holdin	711.6	-2.5

EU SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
AB INBEV	83.54	-0.06	92.71	56.32
ADIDAS N	281.70	0.15	297.95	178.30
AIR LIQUIDE	117.50	0.45	119.70	92.59
AIRBUS BR	120.40	0.56	133.86	77.50
ALLIANZ	218.15	3.55	218.70	170.50
AMADEUS IT GRP BR-A	65.50	-1.24	74.94	58.06
ASML HLDG	228.00	-1.00	243.85	130.12
AXA	23.93	0.10	24.09	18.40
BANCO SANTANDER	3.87	0.01	4.68	3.39
BASF N	66.20	0.34	74.62	55.72
BAYER N	64.99	-0.79	78.74	52.00
BBVA	4.78	0.05	5.68	4.19
BMW	67.30	-0.21	79.00	58.10
BNP PARIBAS A	46.99	0.01	50.08	38.14
CRH PLC	31.41	-0.09	34.87	26.53
DAIMLER N	48.21	-0.45	59.90	40.35
DANONE	71.96	-6.62	82.38	59.72
DEUTSCHE BOERSE N	143.10	-0.05	145.55	102.50
DEUTSCHE POST N	30.70	0.15	31.59	23.43
DEUTSCHE TELEKOM N	15.85	0.04	15.95	13.98
ENEL N	6.77	-0.00	6.91	4.31
ENGIE	14.95	0.07	15.24	11.31
ENI N	13.78	0.04	16.06	12.92
ESSILORLUXOTT	134.80	0.35	137.30	95.50
FRESENIUS	43.40	-1.19	63.56	38.50
IBERDROLA	9.12	0.03	9.58	5.89
INDITEX	28.45	-0.09	29.00	21.85
ING GROUP	10.16	0.01	12.14	8.20
INTESA SANPAOLO N	2.23	0.00	2.36	1.80
KERING	469.65	-8.00	539.80	351.70
KON AH DEL BR	22.98	-0.15	24.01	19.36
L'OREAL	240.70	-3.60	258.90	184.05
LINDE	175.85	-1.45	0.00	0.00
LVMH	375.05	0.30	392.65	242.30
MUENCHENER RUECKV N	247.00	1.30	248.10	181.20
NOKIA	4.75	0.03	5.76	4.17
ORANGE	14.93	0.06	15.25	13.08
ROY.PHILIPS	39.07	0.00	44.60	29.05
SAFRAN	140.85	0.45	145.40	99.98
SANOFI	82.80	-0.92	85.90	71.74
SAP I	115.50	-0.74	125.00	84.02
SCHNEIDER EL	81.78	-0.42	82.98	57.54
SIEMENS N	99.77	0.78	108.62	84.72
SOCIETE GENERALE	26.03	0.00	32.31	20.81
TELEFONICA	7.07	0.02	8.06	5.86
TOTAL	46.34	0.12	52.49	42.65
UNILEVER	54.07	-0.38	57.77	45.60
VINCI	96.54	-0.68	101.70	69.98
VIVENDI	25.42	0.25	26.69	20.80
VOLKSWAGEN VZ I	168.80	1.34	172.82	131.02

CRYPTO A.M. DAILY

POWERED BY BEQUANT

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Name	Price (USDT)	↑/↓(24h)	
Bitcoin (BTC)	$ 8,000.21	0.17%	↑
Ethereum (ETH)	$ 173.02	-0.94%	↓
Ripple (XRP)	$ 0.29	-2.03%	↓
Bitcoin Cash (BCH)	$ 214.70	-0.01%	↓
Litecoin (LTC)	$ 53.62	0.19%	↑
EOS.IO (EOS)	$ 2.89	-0.31%	↓
Bitcoin SV (BSV)	$ 90.43	-0.59%	↓
TRON (TRON)	$ 0.01	-1.90%	↓
NEO (NEO)	$ 7.20	0.34%	↑
Cardano (ADA)	$ 0.03	1.06%	↑
CryptoCompare Large Cap Index		-0.54%	↓
CryptoCompare Small Cap Index		-0.06%	↓

Market	$217,356,595,025	
Bitcoin Volatility	-0.71%	↓
Bitcoin Volume on BEQUANT Exchange (USDT)	92,411,592	

Sources: Bequant.io, CryptoCompare.com
Prices and data are correct as of 12:00, 20.10.2019
Crypto AM features in City AM every Tuesday.
Previous Editions:www.cityam.com/crypto-insider
Read more at: https://bequant.pro/cityam

CRYPTO & COFFEE

The price action over the weekend has been relatively subdued, with Bitcoin trading just below $8,000 and Ethereum hovering just above $170 level. Technicians will point out that Bitcoin's 50- and 200-day moving averages (MAs) look set to produce a death cross in the next week or two. Ethereum's cross formation took place in early September, when the price was in the high $170 area.

According to technical analysis theory, a death cross is a long-term bear market indicator. However, in reality it is usually a lagging indicator and often ends up trapping sellers on the wrong side of the market. In fact, historical data indicates that the cryptocurrency could bottom out if the cross is confirmed. One particular factor that may disrupt this trend is the uncertainty related to Bitfinex and Tether case.

As a reminder, Ifinex (the parent company of stablecoin issuer Tether and cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex) has until November 4 to present a case for the lawsuit by NYAG to be dismissed or else the company may be required to continue to comply with the investigation. If the case by NYAG is allowed to proceed, actual arguments won't likely begin until 2020.

US SHARES

	Price	Chg	High	Low
3M	163.10	-0.44	219.75	150.58
ABBOTT LABORATOR	82.79	0.41	88.76	65.44
ADOBE	265.52	-3.72	313.11	204.95
ALPHAB RG-C-NV	1245.49	-7.58	1289.27	970.11
ALPHABET-A	1244.41	-8.39	1296.98	977.66
AMAZON.COM	1757.51	-29.97	2035.80	1307.00
AMERICAN EXPRESS	116.76	-2.34	129.34	89.05
AMGEN	202.72	-0.84	211.90	166.30
APPLE	236.41	1.13	238.13	142.00
AT&T	38.47	0.66	38.75	26.80
BANK OF AMERICA	30.35	0.09	31.17	22.66
BERKSHIRE HATH RG-B	208.76	0.14	223.59	186.10
BOEING CO	344.00	-25.06	446.01	292.47
CATERPILLAR	130.71	-1.36	144.77	111.75
CHEVRON	114.74	-0.61	127.34	100.22
CISCO SYSTEMS	46.71	-0.32	58.26	40.25
CITIGROUP	69.74	0.14	73.09	48.42
COCA-COLA CO	54.78	0.99	55.92	44.42
COMCAST-A	45.57	-0.36	47.27	32.61
COSTCO WHSL	302.86	0.46	307.34	189.51
DOW	47.96	0.15	0.00	0.00
EXXON MOBIL	67.61	-0.53	83.75	64.65
FACEBOOK-A	185.85	-4.54	208.66	123.02
GOLDMAN SACHS GR	206.52	0.06	234.06	151.70
HOME DEPOT	237.93	1.16	238.73	158.09
IBM	134.09	-0.17	152.95	105.94
INTEL	51.36	-0.50	59.59	42.36
JOHNSON&JOHNSON	127.70	-8.47	148.99	121.00
JPMORGAN CHASE	120.56	0.21	121.59	91.11
MASTERCARD RG-A	270.63	-5.88	293.69	171.89
MCDONALD'S	208.50	1.65	221.93	166.19
MEDTRONIC	108.12	-0.39	112.05	81.66
MERCK	84.68	0.88	87.35	66.10
MICROSOFT	137.41	-2.28	142.37	93.96
NIKE -B-	96.10	0.54	96.46	66.53
ORACLE	54.55	-0.51	60.50	42.40
PEPSICO	136.25	-0.71	140.45	105.03
PFIZER	36.46	0.00	46.47	33.97
PHILIP MRRS INT	80.55	0.70	92.74	64.67
PROCTER&GAMBLE	117.47	0.84	125.36	84.86
SALESFORCE.COM	144.09	-2.08	167.56	113.60
TRAVELERS COS	141.36	0.88	155.09	111.08
TWITTER	38.99	-0.62	45.86	26.26
UNITEDHEALTH GRO	245.34	1.67	287.94	208.07
UTD TECHS	136.80	-1.37	144.40	100.48
VERIZON COMM	61.05	0.64	61.58	52.28
VISA RG-A	175.71	-2.23	187.05	121.60
WALGREENS BOOTS	55.30	-0.64	86.31	49.03
WALMART	119.14	-0.70	120.71	85.78
WALT DISNEY	130.89	-1.48	147.15	100.35
WELLS FARGO	49.97	0.36	55.04	43.02

COMMODITIES

Gold	1492.65	7.55	Copper Cash Official	5683.00	43.00
Silver	17.45	0.20	Aluminium Cash Official	1703.00	22.50
Brent Crude	58.74	-0.61	Nickel Cash Official	17000.00	-680.00
Krugerrand	1529.70	12.05	Aluminium Alloy Cash Official	1150.00	0.00
Palladium	1769.00	27.00	Cocoa Futures	2512.00	-9.00
Platinum	882.00	-3.00	Coffee 'C' Futures	95.80	2.90
Tin Cash Official	16600.00	0.00	Feed Wheat Futures	135.35	-1.22
Lead Cash Official	2128.00	60.00	Soybeans Futures Continuation Contract	933.60	2.20
Zinc Cash Official	2440.00	0.00			

CREDIT & RATES

BoE IR Overnight	0.750	0.00	Euro Base Rate	0.000	0.00
BoE IR 7 days	0.750	0.00	Finance house base rate	1.000	0.00
BoE IR 1 month	0.750	0.00	US Fed funds	2.24	0.01
BoE IR 3 months	0.750	0.00	US long bond yield	2.25	0.01
BoE IR 6 months	0.750	0.00	Euro Euribor	-0.488	0.01
LIBOR Euro - overnight	-0.572	0.00	The vix index	14.25	0.46
LIBOR Euro - 12 months	-0.316	0.00	The baltic dry index	1855.00	-6.00
LIBOR USD - overnight	1.815	-0.01	Markit iBoxx EUR	247.14	-0.28
LIBOR USD - 12 months	1.987	-0.01	Markit iBoxx GBP	353.40	-0.47
Halifax mortgage rate	3.990	0.00	Markit iBoxx USD	261.53	-0.03

WORLD INDICES

	Price	Chg	%chg
FTSE 100	7150.57	-31.75	-0.44
FTSE 250	20228.53	7.42	0.04
FTSE All-Share	3956.89	-13.91	-0.35
FTSE AIM All-Share	880.73	-1.91	-0.22
S&P 500	2986.20	-11.75	-0.39
Dow Jones I.A.	26770.20	-255.68	-0.95
Nasdaq Composite	8089.54	-67.31	-0.83
Xetra DAX	12633.60	-21.35	-0.17
CAC 40	5636.25	-36.82	-0.65
Swiss Market Index	9965.57	-43.37	-0.43
ISEQ Overall Index	6463.55	-63.57	-0.97
FTSEurofirst 300	1534.81	-5.93	-0.38
Hang Seng	26719.58	-128.91	-0.48
Shanghai Composite	2938.14	-39.19	-1.32
STI Index	3114.28	-10.27	-0.33
ASX All Ordinaries	6758.40	-33.10	-0.49

FORUM

EDITED BY RACHEL CUNLIFFE

Recover that Olympic spirit to give London back its mojo

Michael Hayman

INSPIRE a generation." That was the slogan for the London 2012 Olympic Games, and a memory of a moment when the capital and the country felt confident about the future.

Cast your mind back and recall the triumphs of elite athletes, the city at ease with itself, and the country bursting with the pride of a phenomenal achievement delivered for the world. It was a high point for the "feel-good factor" – the widespread feeling of happiness, tolerance, and kindness towards others.

I wonder what our 2012 selves would have made of the scenes in Canning Town last week, where Extinction Rebellion protesters feuded with commuters? It was an attempt to provoke – and in that it was successful. Targeting mass public transport at rush hour, activists were dragged from the tops of trains by angry would-be passengers.

But it released hate not hope, and there was something heart-breaking about watching the frustration of everyday passengers boil over into rage. It was an own goal for the protesters, who rapidly lost public support, but also a sad day for many of the rest of us.

For that split second said much about our state of mind as a nation, and the reaction to it confirms the deep divisions that mark out today's Britain. A crowd taking back control or a lynch mob losing its senses? It took moments before the rush to judgement began on social media.

One thing is for sure: whatever your view, the image of central London locked down last week felt a long way from London 2012.

Whereas then Whitehall was the open playground for beach volleyball, it was now closed and under siege, dominated by the sight of concrete bollards and the sound of screaming police vehicle sirens.

For as long as you care to remember, London has been Europe's confidence capital: a feel-good supernova, a superstar city, a powerhouse economy, and an innovation inspiration. That confidence has inspired people from all over the planet to make it their home. And it has given the city the energy and self-assurance of an open, global, and collaborative world leader.

But the thing about confidence is that it is powerful but fragile. It's the nuclear fuel for progress. Don't mess with it.

That is exactly what has been happening. London has found itself besieged not only with protesters, but other challenges that risk ebbing away at our sense of self.

Take crime. Last week, the city racked up an unenviable new record: knife crime at a historic high with over 15,000 offences in a year.

The rational response is to develop better policing and justice strategies, and remember that the relative risk of crime remains thankfully low. But the reputational risk of being labelled a crime capital could do much to damage confidence.

It is why concepts like public safety or indeed the buoyancy of markets don't depend just on the rational actions of the police or traders. They are influenced by intangible and unpredictable factors like how society reacts to an event.

Malcolm Gladwell, the writer who popularised the idea of the "tipping point", described this as the moment "when an idea, trend, or social behaviour crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire".

Belief matters. The rise and fall of cities and nations alike is often aligned with the confidence of their people to win through. History is replete with places that once seemed unstoppable centres of ambition ending up as museums to the past.

It's against this background that London's reputation for success is too often taken as a given: the city equivalent of too big too fail.

And in the three years since the referendum, London has kept the show on the road. But you can't help but wonder if these have been the years of survive rather than thrive.

The often privately held worry, especially among big business, is that Brexit in combination with a range of other challenges – from low productivity to stalling global growth – is the sign that good times can't last.

But none of this is a given. So for London to continue to prosper, it needs to get its mojo back, and fast.

High-performance athletes will tell you that the key to power performance is to positively envision yourself on your best day, to capture the feeling and to unleash the attitude.

We saw many of those days in the summer of 2012. London really does know what it is like when it is at its best. And we need to have the confidence to believe it and use it to inspire again.

> **It has been Europe's confidence capital: a feel-good supernova, a powerhouse economy, and an innovation inspiration – but confidence is fragile**

Michael Hayman MBE is co-founder of Seven Hills and co-author of Mission: How the Best in Business Break Through.

The City's success depends on our ability not only to compete, but to collaborate

Catherine McGuinness

JUST last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel remarked that the UK will join the likes of China and the US in becoming an "economic competitor" of the European Union after Brexit.

There is, of course, no doubt about the competitiveness of the UK's financial services sector, nor about the fundamental strengths of London. But looking ahead at the common challenges that we face in the foreseeable future, our ability to collaborate will be just as important as our readiness to compete.

The EU and the UK will therefore need to remain close partners as we look to tackle shared challenges such as climate change and to promote regulatory cooperation across global markets – and this was the message at the heart of my visit to Brussels last week.

Whether it be our expertise in sustainable infrastructure or green bonds in a variety of global currencies, our recent research shows that the quality of London's sustainable finance offer is still unmatched by any other global financial centre.

But our success does not exist in a vacuum. When it comes to building the regulatory framework for green finance, it is and will continue to be essential that London works closely with like-minded partners across the globe in order to avoid environmental catastrophe.

The launch of the Green Finance Institute earlier this year, with support from the City of London Corporation and the government, offers an opportunity for the UK and the EU to collaborate towards this goal after Brexit. It will combine the best knowledge and practice across financial services to mobilise capital to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon and climate-resilient economy, both domestically and internationally.

With trillions of pounds of green investment needed over the coming decades, tackling this huge challenge will also require the help of key European stakeholders.

Green finance is just one of many issues where our mutual interests are aligned, whatever comes of Brexit. Just this week, the International Monetary Fund warned once again about the prospect of a global economic slowdown, and the role that trade disputes are playing in contributing to this.

We do not see the UK's departure from the European Union as an excuse for a bonfire of regulation – indeed, quite the opposite. Close regulatory alignment with the EU will remain important in order to be able to continue to trade.

We have been clear that the City remains steadfastly committed to the multilateralist trading framework that we share with our partners across the world. Regulatory cooperation is vital for businesses and consumers to thrive, in the UK, the EU, and beyond.

This is more important than ever at a time when technology is making the world increasingly interconnected and changing the way that the financial services sector serves its customers. This was a point I raised with MEPs and third-country representatives in Brussels.

So whatever happens next, the UK mustn't turn our backs on Europe – or the great shared challenges that we are confronted with. Only through working together do we have the opportunity to succeed.

Catherine McGuinness is policy chair at the City of London Corporation.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Light-touch restrictions

[Re: Kinks aside, the porn block was a puritanical attack on sexual expression]

As chief executive of Portland TV, the company behind Television X, I have no interest in curbing sexual expression. And yet, I am a fervent proponent of child protection initiatives like age verification.

Age verification is not a "porn block" – done properly, it is a light-touch check which prevents kids from stumbling across inappropriate content, despite their parents' best attempts to protect them. Television X has been doing it for years to great success.

The age verification systems proposed were the result of years of work informed by industry experts, mostly from the tech sector, who have been striving to make a clear distinction between age checking and identity verification. We don't need to know who you are simply to check that you are over 18. Data minimisation has always been at the forefront of these efforts.

The abandonment of this process leaves children exposed, costs businesses money, and breeds consumer confusion. And it doesn't benefit anyone, except the overseas companies which continue to pump a deluge of hardcore pornography into the UK that is freely available with zero access restrictions.

Adults' rights to view this content have been hard-won and need protecting. Let's make one small concession – restrict children's access in the interest of protecting adults' viewing habits. This should of course be accompanied by better education in schools to allow children to better understand and contextualise porn when encountered. Urgent action is needed on that front from the government.

In the meantime, without age verification or education, leaving children exposed to the extreme material supplied by unregulated overseas providers is wholly unacceptable to the regulated industry and parents alike – and ironically only fuels calls for censorship of the internet.

Chris Ratcliff, chief executive of Portland TV and council member of the Digital Policy Alliance

BEST OF TWITTER

Stop with the "oh now they're affecting peoples lives XR have lost the PR battle". That happened from the start. Anyone using a bus was disrupted already. Anyone working in the City or Westminster. There aren't special enclaves where workers deserve disruption unlike Canning Town
@emmamrevell

"I'm not always going to be here," says Mark Zuckerberg. He's 35! He has total control of his company! When is he not going to be here?!
@LFDodds

My cafe loyalty app tells me I've earned a mini chocolate pastry. My Fitbit app tells me I have NOT earned a mini chocolate pastry. And they said tech was going to make our lives less confusing...
@KateMaltby

Boris proposes strict new rules around freedom of movement, although mainly to stop his MPs joining the Lib Dems.
@haveigotnews

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

Reforming public procurement can build a fairer, greener Britain

FROM the collapse of Carillion to the Brexit ferries fiasco, public procurement has had a rocky few years. But while the focus has rightly been on ensuring that such disasters don't happen again, we must not forget that public procurement can actually be an enormous force for good.

Public procurement is the act of the government buying things from external providers, from stationery to submarines, nurses' uniforms to IT systems. It's the government's largest spend, amounting to almost £300bn a year and representing around 13 per cent of the UK's GDP. That's a huge figure: almost three times what we spend on the NHS in England.

And it's not just money, it's an opportunity. In fact, new Demos research published yesterday outlines how this vast spending power represents the enormous potential to shape a fairer Britain.

How? By using it as leverage to encourage the companies seeking these contracts to act more in the interests of society, from how they treat workers to the tax they pay to reducing their impact on the environment.

The fundamentals are already in place. Through "social value" criteria, the government can try to maximise the social, environmental and economic impact of procurement. But standards, definitions and priorities for social value remain disjointed and unaligned across the government.

Our report recommends that these criteria are clarified and properly aligned with the government's priorities for building a fairer, greener, more prosperous Britain. New cross-government objectives could foster a "mission-oriented" approach to public procurement, ensuring that we reach the full potential of the pioneering legislation that introduced these powers.

For example, in-work poverty could be tackled by requiring government suppliers to offer their workers the real living wage, as pioneering councils such as Preston are already doing.

To increase their chances of winning government contracts, some companies are striving to offer the government more social value, such as by providing high quality training and skills to areas in need. But this could be taken so much further.

Or take the environment. The government's drive to tackle climate change and improve biodiversity could be fostered by public procurement demanding that suppliers meet strict new environmental criteria, dramatically "levelling up" the playing field.

It could also drive better tax behaviour. Our research identifies that almost three quarters of the biggest state suppliers have operations in tax havens. Tackling tax avoidance in a globalised world through legislation is complex, but new standards should allow government departments to include a bidder's effective tax rate – the amount of tax they pay to the Exchequer – when considering who to award contracts to, rewarding those firms that pay their fair share.

Three quarters of the biggest state suppliers have operations in tax havens

None of this, however, will have much impact if the government doesn't have a fair and competitive market to choose providers from. But this happens far too rarely: almost one in four public sector contracts only receive just one bid, leaving commissioners no choice at all.

It is therefore vital that steps are taken to increase the number of companies competing. This involves ensuring that procurement works better for small and medium-sized enterprises, which too often feel that they have little or no chance of winning government contracts.

That's why we are calling for small business advisory councils – made up of small business owners themselves – in the biggest government departments. We also need to provide businesses with more information about why and how bids are awarded, improving their chances of winning contracts in the future.

Government procurement can be so much more than the purchasing of goods or services. It should be seen as a route to a fairer, greener Britain – something that politicians of all stripes should welcome.

Rose Lasko-Skinner and Ben Glover are researchers at the think tank Demos.

DEBATE

Could the BBC survive becoming a subscription service, as Nicky Morgan has suggested?

YES

NICHOLAS MAZZEI

The BBC is a well-loved and historic British institution, but it needs to move with the times. Ending its guaranteed income and making it compete for its customers through a subscription model would drive it to become more innovative and think more carefully about its content and services.

Many of us have fallen out of love with the BBC. Its inability to manage serious public issues in meaningful ways, its woeful digital technology platform, and the loss of millennial and generation Z audiences to competitors mean it has already lost a meaningful connection with current and future target markets.

A subscription model could bring the BBC to the twenty-first century. It would be able to leverage its massive back catalogue of excellent material, while focusing on delivering content that all audiences can celebrate. Its news and current affairs services would also need to evolve and innovate, meaning that we might one day get a Question Time episode that holds our politicians to account. The BBC mandate from the 1920s simply no longer works.

Nicholas Mazzei is a corporate social responsibility adviser.

NO

SARAH BAUMANN

The BBC's mission is "to act in the public interest, serving all audiences through the provision of impartial, high-quality and distinctive output and services which inform, educate and entertain". Becoming a subscription service would make this impossible.

To compete, it would almost certainly have to sell packages of its programmes at various prices. How could it serve all audiences fairly if budgets shifted towards the most popular services?

This would demolish the BBC's connection with elderly audiences, who are less likely to switch to a new fee model and may struggle with technology – not ideal when many are also suffering from loneliness and isolation. Low-income households could also be priced out.

Ultimately, the move would show a lack of empathy with viewers who rely on the BBC for trusted, high quality content. It is important to understand where audience attention is focused in the media landscape, but just because subscription models are popular does not mean that they are for everyone.

Sarah Baumann is managing director at VaynerMedia London.

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TRADING AMBITION in association with IG

Chris Beauchamp

Chief Market Analyst, IG

US EQUITY OUTLOOK – MORE GAINS TO COME?

The S&P 500 is near record highs, the US economy continues to grow, and the Fed is gently cutting rates in order to help sustain the expansion. Yet sentiment remains fragile at best. Investors are it seems determined to find the 'next 2008' at every turn, fretting that a US recession is near and that a 40% drop in the S&P 500 is getting closer.

First, the bad news. Earnings are weakening, in a manner that has not been seen since 2016. According to FactSet, earnings fell 4% in Q1 and 2.7% in Q2, and a fresh decline is expected this time as well. This comes off the back of ten consecutive quarters of earnings growth, stretching from Q3 2016 to Q4 2018. A third quarter of declines would make it difficult for the S&P 500 to continue to gain in the short-term, but would not necessarily imperil the longer-term bull market.

Previous peaks in earnings have not spelled doom for the equity rally anyway. If we were to assume that earnings had peaked, a very ambitious assumption, then over the previous three decades around five-and-a-half years elapse before a real bear market begins, which might suggest a significant decline in equity indices is unlikely to occur before 2024. It is more likely that this period of weakness is a necessary counterpart to the strength seen from 2016 until the end of 2018.

Moving on from earnings, we look at the macroeconomic picture. It is hardly controversial to say that we are nearer to the next recession than to the previous one. But this does not mean one is imminent, either. One is however likely in 2020 – unemployment claims have bottomed for now, something that usually happens around a year before the recession, while new home sales peaked two months ago, giving us, on average, another thirty months before a recession. But this merely tells us what we already know, namely that the US economy is in the late-cycle element of the economic expansion.

Crucially, the Fed is acting to sustain the expansion by cutting interest rates in a slow and steady manner. US GDP has been growing by 2% per quarter over the previous three quarters, and while this is a slowdown on the 3% of the preceding three quarters, it remains a solid rate of growth for a mature economy like the US.

In addition, retail sales have yet to peak. The stock market is not the economy, and even in a consumer-driven economy like the US there is more to the picture than retail sales, but there seems no slowdown in the pace of overall retail sales, measured by total volume. Americans continue to spend, sending a positive signal about the longer-term outlook.

Over the longer-term, the S&P 500 is not expensive. At around 17 times forward earnings, the index is closer to its 25-year average than it was towards the beginning of 2017, when a steady one-year rally beckoned. The volatility of 2018 saw the valuation fall below the 25-year average, to around 15 times earnings. Admittedly, this is above the valuation seen before the Great Financial Crisis, which was around 15 times forward earnings, while in 1999 the S&P 500 was at 24 times earnings.

There are risks to the outlook, and it is important to be aware of them. Chief among them, of course, is the US-China trade war. While it may take time to come to a resolution, it does look as if there are grounds for optimism. As the US election nears, the desire to do a deal will rise in Washington, even if this then clears the way for Mr Trump to begin a new trade spat, this time with Europe. A broader conflict in the Middle East, where Turkey is flexing its muscles and Saudi Arabia and Iran are at loggerheads, is another reason to be cautious.

In truth, it is always easy to find a reason to be worried. The US debt ceiling crisis, the Greek crisis, the China panic of 2015 have all come and gone since the great rally of 2009 began, and all at the time seemed like harbinger of a fresh bear market. Looking back, it seems strange to think that investors become so concerned, but investing is always much easier in hindsight. The sideways movement of 2018 seems to have been a necessary reaction to the rally of 2016-2018, which itself followed on from the trading range of 2015 and early 2016. It is not hard to believe that 2018/19 will resolve into another long-term move higher.

It is entirely possible that, backed by strong earnings and healthy economic data, plus a supportive Fed, equities in the US will continue to move higher.

Spread bets and CFDs are complex instruments and come with a high risk of losing money rapidly due to leverage. ***75% of retail investor accounts lose money when trading spread bets and CFDs with this provider.*** *You should consider whether you understand how spread bets and CFDs work, and whether you can afford to take the high risk of losing your money.*

ENTREPRENEURS

MARKET MAN ON A MISSION

Luke Graham speaks to Mercato Metropolitano's founder about saving the world from bad food

THE WORDS Elephant & Castle and trendy food market don't normally go together. It's an area that's unfortunately more associated with crime and poverty than gourmet dining.

But since 2016, a patch of unassuming land around the corner from the Ministry of Sound has played home to Mercato Metropolitano. This upscale hotspot has around 50 vendors selling food from all corners of the globe – in 2018, three million people visited it, generating around £15m in sales.

Mercato Metropolitano now plans to open several more sites in the capital, including in Mayfair and Ilford. And the business has been asked to open locations in Europe and the US, too.

FROM MILAN TO LONDON

However, the story of the market doesn't begin in London – the original concept was tested at the 2015 World Expo in Milan. Andrea Rasca, a serial Italian business entrepreneur and the founder of Mercato Metropolitano, transformed a disused railway station there into a thriving food hall.

"We had 2.5m visitors in four and a half months, without spending one pound in advertising," Rasca recalls.

"That Mercato was the full synthesis of what I'd been through in my career, my studies, everything. We created this space, which represented me and how I want to live my life – a table, with people around, cooking together and eating together."

Sadly, Rasca was forced to close it due to a decision by the site's owners.

"I love Italy, but we do not tend to have a long-term view on things," he laments. "They said 'you have to dismantle and we have to decide what to do with that space'. That was 2015, now it's 2019, and it's still empty."

Not to be deterred, Rasca turned his attention towards London. Friends in the city showed him several possible locations, but he was unimpressed until he was brought to the spot in Elephant & Castle.

Before it became Mercato Metropolitano, the site was a paper factory that had been disused for decades. It belonged to the housing association Peabody Trust, which had struggled to develop the site – until Rasca came along.

"When I came here, there were dogs and guards. It was a disaster – an ex-factory that was abandoned," he recalls.

"But if you look at a map, it's at the heart of London. I saw the potential for an amazing place. I talked to Peabody, which didn't know what to do with it. We agreed on a very low, accessible rent, because it wanted to get rid of paying business rates."

Andrea Rasca opened Mercato Metropolitano in London in 2016

Three months after the agreement, the market opened.

"The beginning is always difficult, because we do not advertise – it's all word of mouth. But then we grew: in 2017 we did around £9m of sales, in 2018, we closed at approximately £15.2m, this year we are targeting £23m," Rasca says. "It was scary to begin with. When you're an entrepreneur, you need to be scared. If you're not scared, it means that there's something wrong."

COOKING UP SUCCESS

Mercato Metropolitano is also a social enterprise, running events and workshops for the local community like film screenings, cooking classes, and yoga sessions.

What also sets it apart from its competition is how it deals with vendors. Rather than simply charging a flat rent for space, the market is more like an incubator programme, working with young food and drink startups and taking a percentage of their sales, so the vendors only pay if they are doing well.

However, this arrangement means that the startups must give up some independence. Vendors have to provide the Mercato with a list of ingredients and where they're sourced from, and be willing to open their fridge at a moment's notice. They also have to work with the executive chef team who inspect how they operate.

"Everything has to be controlled by us, so the food is mostly organic and mostly local. It's not only about quality control, I want to know and understand who is the supplier," explains Rasca. "My real concern is the visitor, and to give them the best possible experience. And because we have such a big space, I can charge less rent and negotiate with suppliers. Everybody's happy, and no one wants to leave."

Rasca's concern over where vendors' ingredients come from may seem a touch extreme. He is very passionate – bordering on angry – about food issues in the world. He argues that the big retailers and manufacturers have degraded food quality, and that society stopped eating well after the industrialisation of farming.

"People started thinking about the money in their pockets and not the people they were feeding. They started to maximise the profit on wheat, for instance, by creating a wheat flour that was not nutritious, but could sit on a shelf for two years. That sounds fantastic, but who cares – I want food to go rotten, otherwise there's something wrong with it.

> "It was scary to begin with – when you're an entrepreneur, you need to be scared

"We've been educating people that food has to be cheap. This is the biggest stupidity in the world. Food has to be good, healthy and nutritious, and then we have to make it accessible to everybody. Cheap is not the first thing we have to think about."

It is worth noting that, thanks to developments in food production that Rasca dismisses, globally the number of people classed as undernourished has fallen dramatically over the years, from over one billion in 1991 to 820m in 2017, according to data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

But Rasca is adamant. He talks about the rise in diabetes-related illnesses in the UK, about childhood obesity, and scoffs at the idea that banning junk food adverts – as Transport for London did this year – is the answer.

"If you still sell Coca-Cola in every corner of this city, and then ask me how you combat child obesity, I'd like to take your head and smash it against a wall," he says jokingly (I hope). "It's not by banning adverts on buses."

Rasca argues that the answer instead is to create places where industrial food is not allowed, like in his market.

"This is a safe haven from the bombardment of advertising. I opened this place because I wanted to give an answer to the food issues facing the big cities."

Certainly, Mercato Metropolitano takes these issues seriously. The website hosts a manifesto about food rights, sustainability, and ensuring access to nutritious and adequate food for everyone. I tell Rasca that he sounds more like he's on a mission to save the world than just run a business, and he agrees.

"Mercato was born to create a positive, alternative solution and way of living. It's not just about food, it's about how we live. This is a mission, not just a business."

TRAVEL

48 HOURS IN...

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

WHERE TO STAY
For chic beachside glamour head to **QT Hotels Bondi Beach**; the only high-end boutique aparthotel that's right there on the sands. The suites are huge and its near all the restaurants and bars. *Visit qthotelsandresorts.com*

WHERE TO GO
This one is a real secret, its whereabouts whispered in hushed tones. But if you have a chance, check out **Bondi Beach** where you can bask in the sun, sea and surf that exists in the eternal Australian summer of your dreams.

WHERE TO DRINK
China Diner is the perfect excuse to smarten up after a day on the surf. Its menu offers both Chinese and South-east Asian dishes, with traditional favourites and modern takes both covered off. *Visit chinadiner.com.au*

WHERE TO EAT
We may thank the Italians for our coffee culture, but it's the Aussies who have really pushed the envelope in the last decade. Try **Mecca Coffee** for the finest black stuff in town.
Visit mecca.coffee

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

Josh Martin hops aboard the Glacier Express linking two of Switzerland's most-famous ski resorts

You could almost feel our compartment teeter over the edge of the crossing as the whole carriage readied cameras and phones to capture the iconic photograph. The Landwasser Viaduct on the Swiss rail network's Glacier Express is the pièce de résistance of the journey between swish alpine resort towns of Zermatt and St Moritz.

And judging by the ferocious snapping and uploading as we clacked across its towering bridge, 65 metres above snow-crusted forest below, to marvel at this engineering feat is not reserved only for train nerds. Seconds later, the climax of the journey subsided as we plunged into the darkness of the umpteenth tunnel of the 180 mile excursion.

I scrolled through my own amateur efforts. Useless, all of them. The glare of mid-winter sun hitting the snow or reflections of fellow passengers on their Canons and Nikons meant my attempts would soon be deleted. I should have stayed seated taken it all in through the carriage's wrap-around windows – a slow-travel mantra that's hard to abide by when the panoramas are such beautiful Instagram bait.

At around eight hours into our journey, seeing this emblematic view – if only through a lens – was a long time coming on what's billed as "the world's slowest express train. We had the fortune of being seated across the first-class carriage from a large family who, once the obligatory photos were taken of champagne flutes toasting our morning departure from Zermatt, seemed content to stare a social media feeds and Candy Crush.

I'm not normally one for effusive audio commentary headsets, but the earphones did help in drowning out our neighbours' squabbles, as we whisked by the bright white ski fields of Andermatt. The clear winters day meant sunglasses were essential for passengers squinting out to witness the cross-country skiers trying to match our pace, while the curved roof windows allowed us to follow every peak and black run slalom.

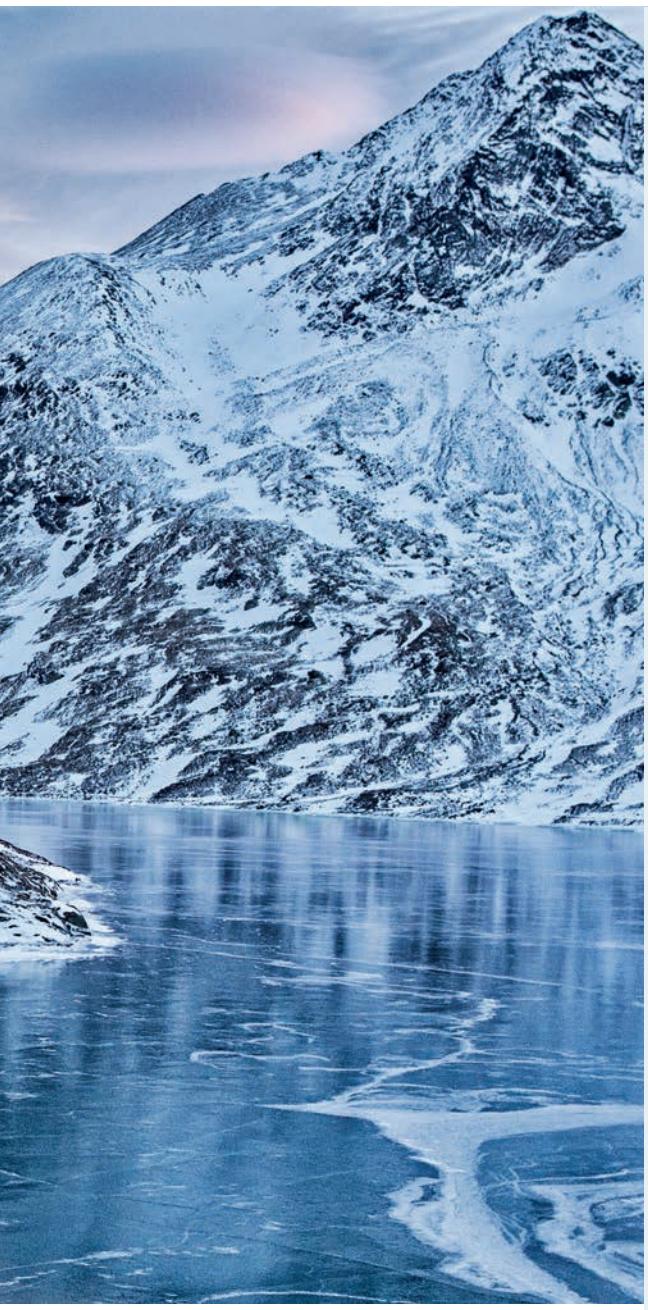
> "65 metres above snow-crusted forest, the Landwasser Viaduct is a marvel

And thanks to my audio-commentary saviour I now know that the Oberalppass we next entered, at 2033m above sea level is one of Europe's highest stretches of railway, integral in transporting commuter vehicles loaded onto trains during the winter months, when the roads are closed by snowfall. I looked beyond our disinterested neighbours – now arguing over a book – to an adjacent train stacked with cars.

To find the Glacier Express route so consistently beautiful is no small ask since our starting point, the car-free alpine town of Zermatt, sets the bar unfairly high. Pressed up against the Matterhorn – its jagged peak emblazoned on Toblerone bars in duty-free shops the world over – Zermatt has nothing to prove. In fact it's quite the opposite. In summer climbers descend on it to try their luck on the peak famous for the deadly first ascent in 1865 by Edward Whymper, in which four of his party fell to their deaths. And, in the depths of winter the only parties on the slopes are of the aprés variety, where the Moncler-robed and Gucci-goggled set recount their runs at too-cool bar Cervo, interrupted only by nondescript synths from the DJ booth.

From every angle, Zermatt is a stunner, helped by the ever-imposing Matterhorn punctuating every backdrop. European ski villages don't have to try too hard to look inviting, but to have one of the world's most-famous peaks lurking behind your snow-side selfies sets it apart. I'm certain our piste guide Valerie tired of us requesting yet another photograph "because, don't you think, the Matterhorn looks a little different from this angle?" But she hid it well. Perhaps it was the twentieth photo stop that prompted her to suggest I follow her down an ungroomed black run named Berter – a challenge I almost immediately regretted accepting as my knees aged a decade as I grimaced down the tree-lined run.

A barely panting Valerie saw my plight and knew just the thing for it: schnapps, a sun trap and (yet another)



NEED TO KNOW

HOTELS
Kulm Hotel St. Moritz
www.kulm.com
Hotel National, Zermatt
www.nationalzermatt.ch

INFO
For more information on Switzerland visit myswitzerland.com or call Switzerland Travel Centre on 00800 100 200 30 or email info.uk@myswitzerland.com; for packages, trains and air tickets sales@stc.co.uk.

FLIGHTS
SWISS offers more than 150 weekly flights from London City, Heathrow, Gatwick (seasonal), Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh to Zurich, Geneva or Sion (seasonal). One way fares start from £74 to Zurich and £83 to Geneva. For more information visit swiss.com or call 0345 601 0956

TRAINS
The Swiss Travel Pass offers unlimited travel on consecutive days throughout the rail, bus and boat Swiss Travel System network. This pass also covers scenic routes and local trams and buses in around 90 towns and cities. Prices from £185 for 3 days in second class. For the ultimate Swiss rail specialist call Switzerland Travel Centre on 00800 100 200 30 or visit swisstravelsystem.co.uk

GLACIER EXPRESS
Reservation fee for Glacier Express (on top of the Swiss Travel Pass): 1st and 2nd class CHF43, Excellence Class CHF420

SKI RESORTS
Zermatt lift passes start at CHF79 per day and can be bought online at matterhornparadise.ch Day passes at St Moritz's Engadin ski areas are around CHF57, book online at engadin.ch

fantastic view of the famed peak.

Our lunch stop Findlerhof was marked only by a path of patrons' skis plunged deep into the snow, an unassuming restaurant among a hamlet of huts, their blackened wood exteriors testament to the frequent sunshine this part of the Swiss Alps enjoys.

The rustic charm did not extend to the menu, however, with Findlerhof opting for high-end rather than homely as we dined on fresh oysters, foie gras, beef tartare and local apricot sorbet drowning in schnapps. It's sure to at least delay the burning in your legs until after the final tracks of the day.

At the other end of the Glacier Express, St. Moritz offers a more in-your-face version of snow-dusted glamour, in part because of its claim to be the birthplace of the winter ski holiday.

We were told as much within minutes of being whisked from the scenic train terminus beside the resort town's now frozen lake up the hill to the Kulm Hotel St Moritz. The oft-repeated story goes that in 1864 then-owner Johannes Badrutt made a bet with his English guest in the summer that they would be able to top up their tans in mid-winter if they were to return in snow season.

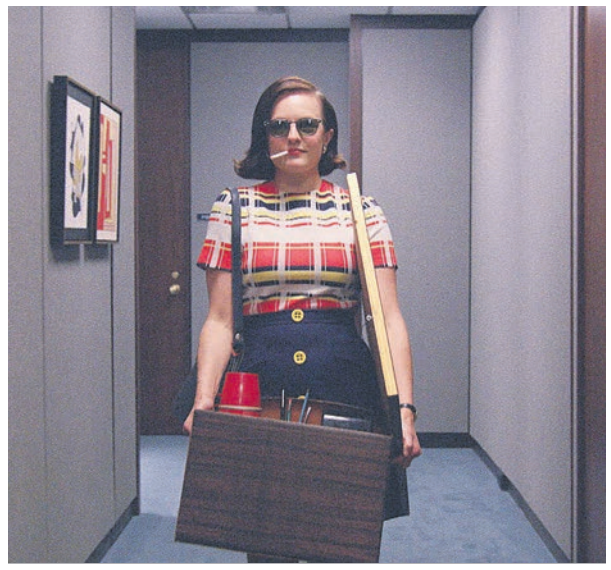
If they were unhappy with the winter weather they could stay for free, he wagered. The ones that took up his offer were so impressed they stayed into the spring, Badrutt won his bet and so launched a 155-year tradition of Brits coming to St Moritz to indulge in skiing, skating and curling. And, according to the view from my balcony, horse racing on the mid-winter ice of Lake St Moritz too.

The suite was certainly plush, but the best seats to look down on this Ascot-on-ice spectacle were poaching in the hotel's hillside and heated infinity pool. A scene unblemished by squabbling first-class carriage families or aching hamstrings: serenity at the end of the line.

OFFICE POLITICS

Personal assistants are the City's unsung heroes

They are the gatekeepers of their bosses' diaries, but their value goes much deeper



Gone are the Mad Men days when most executives had their own dedicated PA

Rebecca Siciliano

ACCEPTING a leadership role has always meant taking on a certain level of stress and pressure. However, evidence suggests that the strain on executives is increasing.

A worrying study by the Institute of Directors found that 57 per cent of managers and directors have experienced mental health issues as a result of workplace pressures, with lack of work-life balance and heavy workload reported as the biggest triggers.

And the pressure only looks set to rise further, as digital technology and the "always on" culture make the issue worse for already frazzled executives.

While some organisations are already tackling the problem with well-being programmes and flexible working options, one element that is often overlooked is the vital role that personal assistants (PAs) can play.

PAs are frequently the unsung heroes, enabling executives to focus on their primary responsibilities and priorities, while minimising the admin that can lead to excessively long hours. According to a 2018 study by Tiger Recruitment, this support is invaluable – with 75 per cent of UK leaders agreeing that PAs help to reduce stress levels, while those with a PA tend to work nine hours less a week on average compared to those bosses without.

A good PA will build up an extremely close working relationship with their executive, understanding how they work, where they need support, and how best to provide it. They can anticipate an executive's needs before their boss even knows themselves.

It also isn't unusual for a PA's responsibilities to span the professional and the personal, by helping executives to organise their work around family, exercise, and other aspects of their life outside the office.

Our research found that PA support is particularly important for female leaders, who are more likely to have an assistant, spend more time with them each week, and whose stress levels are more readily alleviated with their help.

Given that the proportion of women in senior roles is still woefully low and the gender pay gap remains a pressing concern, an experienced assistant can go a long way to making the balancing act easier. Yet, despite the vital role that PAs play, 28 per cent of executives claim that their business lacks the PA support it needs.

Gone are the Mad Men days when most executives had dedicated PAs. Due to the automation of administrative tasks, one PA can today look after two, three, or even more executives. This means that they're spread more thinly, while the workloads and stress levels of senior execs continue to rise.

Mental ill health cost the UK economy over £35bn last year, and organisations are gradually waking up to the sometimes unrealistic expectations placed on their leaders.

PAs have long been the gatekeepers to bosses' diaries, but we can now see that their value goes much deeper than that, with support staff helping to reduce the culture of long hours for business leaders.

As taboos around stress and mental health in the workplace continue to diminish, businesses must do more to acknowledge the critical role that PAs play, while ensuring executives are adequately supported with the highly skilled support staff they need.

Rebecca Siciliano is managing director of Tiger Recruitment.

RUNNING AN ERRAND

Wunderlist
Free

Barbara, your boss, has given you the not-so-easy task of managing her entire life. You've come to the conclusion that sometimes even a personal assistant needs an assistant, and you resort to downloading an app to help you with all the admin. Wunderlist makes it really easy to add and schedule errands or events. Be assured that Barbs won't forget to attend her daughter's school play ever again.

COFFEE BREAK

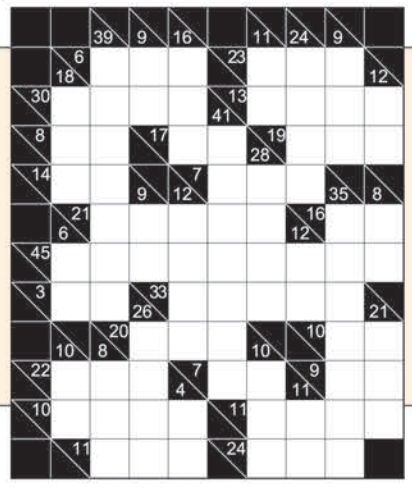
SUDOKU

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.

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

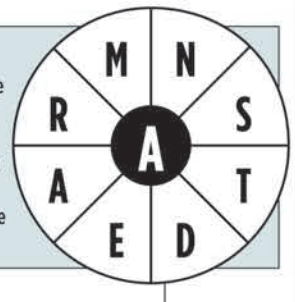
KAKURO

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

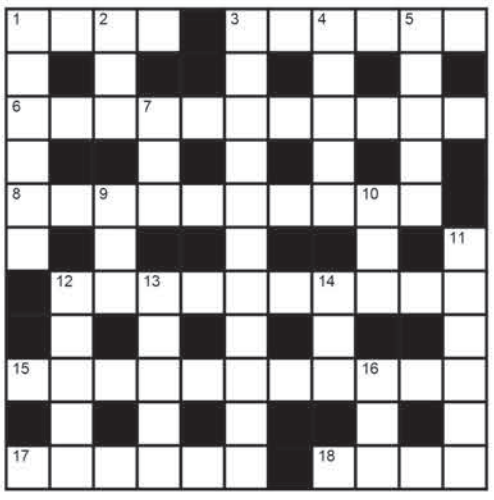


WORDWHEEL

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



QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Explosive device (4)
3 Pleasant arrangements of musical notes (6)
6 With intolerance (11)
8 Flavour sensation that remains following eating or drinking (10)
12 Coach, trainer (10)
15 Require as useful, just, or proper (11)
17 Request (3,3)
18 Of the highest quality (coll) (1-3)

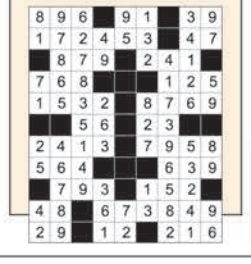
DOWN

1 Nuptial (6)
2 Floor-cleaning implement (3)
3 Preparation for dry skin (11)
4 Connecting parts of a chain (5)
5 Rummage deep (in) (5)
7 Top card (3)
9 Prepare leather (3)
10 Small bird (3)
11 Change to ice (6)
12 Notions (5)
13 Bundle (5)
14 Animal kept as a domestic pet (3)
16 Without further ___, straightaway (3)

LAST ISSUE'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

KAKURO



SUDOKU

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

WORDWHEEL

The nine-letter word was **PANTYHOSE**

Liverpool's flawless title charge hits a bump at resurgent United

Five things **Frank Dalleres** learned as the Premier League leaders fell short of record equalling win

IT WOULD be a stretch to call this a slip for Liverpool, yet it was a stumble of sorts in their quest to become champions of England for the first time in 30 years.

Instead of equalling Manchester City's record of 18 consecutive Premier League wins yesterday, they had to battle back from Marcus Rashford's opener to salvage a draw through Adam Lallana and ensure that their lead at the top of the table was only trimmed to six points.

Liverpool have seldom had it easy at Old Trafford, where Arsenal's 49-match unbeaten sequence also ran aground 15 years ago, and they were hindered by the absence of Mohamed Salah. But history is one thing; on current form they might reasonably expect to beat a United side who could feasibly have ended the weekend in the relegation zone.

SOLSKJAER'S SHOT IN ARM

United, too, will have mixed feelings when they reflect on this scrappy but compelling contest. Conceding five minutes from time was a bitter pill for Ole Gunnar Solksjaer's side, who were hanging on at the end. But given the talk of crisis hanging over the club before this match, a disciplined and lively display that halted the leaders' 100 per cent record can only be seen as a much-needed shot in the arm for Solskjaer's tenure.

REVITALISED RASHFORD

If Rashford's struggles have been symptomatic of United's wider malaise, then his encouraging performance against Liverpool equally took his team up several levels. Having enjoyed a confidence-boosting night for England in Bulgaria last week, he looked a different man here and posed an early threat with a surging run to the byline. Inevitably it was Rashford who struck for United, touching Daniel James's cross past Alisson after his smart movement deceived Virgil van Dijk, and he might have had a second late on when he cut in from the left and fired narrowly wide.

Substitute Adam Lallana equalised for Liverpool late in the game with his first goal for almost two and a half years

PREMIER LEAGUE

MAN UTD	LIVERPOOL
1	1
Rashford (36)	Lallana (85)

LALLANA PROVES THE ANSWER

Liverpool were oddly out of sorts in the first half, perhaps in part due to Salah's ankle injury, which saw Sadio Mane take up his role on the right of the attack and Divock Origi start on the left. But Jurgen Klopp dipped into his attacking options after the break, throwing on Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Lallana and then Naby Keita in search of the breakthrough. It finally came through Lallana, who scored his first goal since May 2017 when Andy Robertson's cross evaded all bodies in a crowded penalty area and he stole in to tap home at the far post.

VAR WATCH

Premier League matches rarely seem to pass without some debate over the use of the video assistant referee (VAR) and this was no exception. Rashford's goal was allowed to stand despite suggestions of a foul on Origi at the start of the move, with referee Martin Atkinson deemed to have had a clear view. Moments later, Mane had a would-be equaliser chalked off by VAR for handball – although there was little contentious about that call.

England yet to play their best, insists Jones

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

pass out wide from Kurtley Beale.

Unlucky to lose the No10 shirt, Ford came off the bench to great effect with 20 minutes to go and was hailed by Jones for his "spectacular" involvement.

His game management skills are second to none and, as Australia sought to mount a comeback, he ensured they were pinned back in their own half, unable to get out.

"I did not drop Ford, I changed his role and it was brilliant," Jones said. "Are we vindicated? We're happy that he played his role well. Modern rugby is a 23-man game."

It was a convincing win, although not as comfortable as the All Blacks' 46-14 demolition of Ireland a couple of hours later.

England will now face New Zealand in Yokohama this Saturday and

REMAINING FIXTURES

SEMI-FINALS
Saturday 26 October
England v New Zealand
Yokohama, 9:00am

Sunday 27 October
Wales v South Africa
Yokohama, 9:00am

THIRD-PLACE MATCH
Friday 1 November
Tokyo, 9:00am

FINAL
Saturday 2 November
Yokohama, 9:00am

Jones, who has always insisted he should be judged on this World Cup, says England have not yet reached their peak.

"We just want to keep challenging ourselves," he said. "We haven't played our best yet and the challenge for us is: how do we get better next week? How do we get better individually as a player? How do we get better as a team? These World Cups, that's what it's all about."

SPORT

UNITED HALT LIVERPOOL
Reds' winning run comes to an end at Old Trafford PAGE 27

AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR Wales join Springboks, England and All Blacks in semis

WALES scored 10 unanswered points against 14 men to edge out France 20-19 in the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals in Oita yesterday. Warren Gatland's men trailed 19-10 at half-time but seized the initiative after lock Sebastien Vahaamahina's red card for elbowing Aaron Wainwright and clinched a dramatic victory when replacement Ross Moriarty touched down in the 74th minute. "We're 160 minutes away from possibly winning the World Cup," said coach Warren Gatland. "If you can't get excited about that, nothing will excite you." Wales will meet South Africa in the semi-finals after they knocked out hosts Japan 26-3 in Tokyo. England face holders New Zealand in the other tie.

SPORT DIGEST

RASHID IS HOT PROPERTY IN THE HUNDRED DRAFT

Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan last night became the first player selected in the inaugural draft for The Hundred when Trent Rockets made him their first pick. Rashid joins England pair Joe Root and Alex Hales and Australia batsman D'Arcy Short at the franchise, one of eight in the new domestic cricket competition starting next summer. Next to be signed was West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell, who joined Southampton-based Southern Brave, batsman Aaron Finch, who will play for Northern Superchargers, and his Australia colleague Mitchell Starc, who is heading to Welsh Fire along with his international skipper Steve Smith.

MURRAY'S JOY AT FIRST SINGLES TITLE SINCE OP

Andy Murray came from a set down to beat Stan Wawrinka in the final of the European Open yesterday, the Briton's first singles title since undergoing hip surgery. Murray, whose career-threatening injury problems had seen him fall to 243 in the world rankings, broke down in tears after the 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory in Antwerp. "The last few years have been extremely difficult," said the former men's No1. "I didn't expect to be in this position at all. I'm happy – very happy."

BEATEN AUSTRALIA COACH CHEIKA FALLS ON SWORD

Australia head coach Michael Cheika has confirmed that he will step down when his contract expires later this year following defeat to England in the Rugby World Cup quarter-finals. Cheika refused to comment on his future in the immediate aftermath of Saturday's 40-16 loss, but said yesterday: "I always knew the answer in my head. I just wanted to speak to my wife and tell a few people up there about it. I put my chips in earlier in the year when I told people 'no win, no play'."

VINDICATION FOR JONES

England head coach got all big calls right in World Cup win over Australia, says **Michael Searles**

A NUMBER of questions hung over England and Eddie Jones ahead of their Rugby World Cup quarter-final against Australia on Saturday. Were they undercooked? Was dropping George Ford a mistake? Were Mako Vunipola and Henry Slade ready to start? Could Owen Farrell be a decisive leader during the heat of battle?

All of those questions were answered swiftly and emphatically as England romped to a 40-16 win over the Wallabies in Oita and set up a semi-final showdown against holders New Zealand this weekend.

The cancellation of England's final pool match against France due to Typhoon Hagibis raised questions about whether England would be battle-hardened for their first knock-out encounter.

But when a coach as notorious for his intense training sessions as Eddie Jones is in charge, being underprepared is never an option.

The 59-year-old was confident in the build-up to the match that the additional rest would prove "ideal" preparation for his side.

And as the refreshed Billy Vunipola put in a mammoth shift alongside fellow back-rowers Tom Curry and Sam Underhill, it was evident that Jones had been right.

England had the luxury of a fully-fit squad to pick from – bar Jack Nowell – and, despite some debate over Jones's starting XV and in particular the absence of George Ford, the result vindicated his decision as he got the tactics spot on.

A backline including Farrell, Manu Tuilagi and Henry Slade dealt excellently with the threat posed by 17-stone Samu Kerevi and 19-year-old Jordan Petaia.

WORLD-CLASS

Australia applied plenty of pressure early on, as expected, but were restricted to penalty kicks by a great rearguard display as England held their shape and refused to let the Wallabies pull them out of their defensive line.

It allowed England, who ceded much of the possession, to make the most of the opportunities that arose and they went into half-time with a 17-6 lead.

The decision to start Slade was also justified by what he offered in attack – in particular, his world-class assist for Jonny May's second try. Intercepting a pass near the halfway line, Slade produced a quick turn of pace and well-executed kick downfield for his team-mate to run on to, really handing England the ascendency in this match.

Meanwhile Farrell, England's best fly-half defensively, also proved his worth as captain and kicker after missing a handful against Argentina in the previous match.

He made the right calls from penalties, opting to kick regularly to build up England's advantage, and was successful with all eight efforts as he scored half of the team's points.

The 28-year-old also ensured his side remained composed when Australia forced their way back into the match with a great solo try from Marika Koroibete just after half-time, which made it 17-16.

It was the one occasion the defensive line lapsed as Slade came out of position and left space behind him. It was also the last time Australia added any points.

Farrell continued to dictate play and promptly assisted Kyle Sinckler for the advantage-restoring third try as England's attacking lines continued to open up the Wallabies.

Anthony Watson added a fourth late on after intercepting a desperate

Eddie Jones says England are yet to play their best rugby

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27