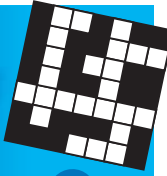


THE UK'S
CHILDREN'S
NEWSPAPER
WITH MORE THAN
2.6 MILLION*
READERS!

BIG CAT
ALERT!
P11



TWO
PAGES OF
PUZZLES
P18-19



PREVENTING
PANDEMICS
OUR Q&A
P16-17



First News

Issue 760 £2.25 8 – 14 January 2021

HELPING
THE UK GROW



NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | INTERVIEWS | PUZZLES | COMPETITIONS

POO POO TRAIN



TRAINS powered by human poo and food waste could be coming to a platform near you soon...

by editor in chief Nicky Cox

The BioUltra train is being developed to replace dirty diesel engines, to help cut air pollution and greenhouse gases. Diesel trains are set to be banned by the Government from 2040, so more green technologies are needed.

Beverley Nielsen, Chair of Ultra Light Rail Partners, the developers of the BioUltra train, told *First News*: "I'm really aware of how little time we have to tackle climate change and want to help make a real difference."

The challenge Councillor Nielsen and her team of experts faced was how to find a way to power trains that wouldn't take too much energy to produce and wouldn't pollute the world through carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions.

CLr Nielsen explained: "Biomethane is very good as a

solution. It's produced from organic waste – animal, human, crop, food – and by using it we prevent very harmful methane emissions, which are up to 34 times more damaging as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide."

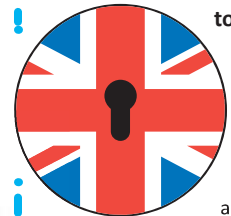
Only 3% of the 90 million tonnes of animal manure produced each year in the UK is processed. So there is no shortage of poo to make the biomethane.

The plan is for the BioUltra train to run in urban and rural places, creating public transport that is clean, affordable and safe. And, with an eye on the coronavirus pandemic, CLr Nielsen added: "We've also tried to make sure it will keep our passengers from getting COVID or other viruses with a clever air filtration system."

The new train is due to go into production over the coming year.

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

SCHOOLS are closed in England and exams have been cancelled as part of a new coronavirus lockdown expected to last well into February.



Once again, most of you will be learning at home with only a small number of pupils at school, such as the children of key workers.

Scotland has also put out a stay at home order and joined Wales in closing classrooms for most pupils. Schoolchildren in Northern Ireland will also be learning at home.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said all the new rules in England would last until at least the middle of February, as a more infectious variant of the virus spreads across the UK. But the PM did add that "we are getting closer to the end", with two different vaccines now being given out across the country. He said that, once enough people have been vaccinated, we will be able to relax the restrictions and start to live our lives more normally.

Turn to p5 to find out what lockdown means for you

2. QUICK NEWS

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GET ARTY

World leaders will come together in Glasgow this November for the UN COP26 Climate Change Conference. To mark the event, a nationwide art competition has been launched with the WWF – and you can take part! The Creative Earth competition allows you to showcase your vision for a greener, healthier and happier planet. Check out more at together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/creative-earth.



ARISE, SIR LEWIS

Lewis Hamilton has been given a knighthood in the Queen's New Year Honours list. The racing driver has been recognised for his sporting achievements, after scooping seven Formula 1 world titles. He was also named BBC Sports Personality of the Year in December last year.

OLDEST SIBLINGS

The D'Cruz family have been awarded a Guinness World Record for the highest combined age for living siblings. The 12 brothers and sisters range in age from 75 to 97 and their combined ages add up to an incredible 1,042 years. Despite their advanced years, the baby of the family, 75-year-old Genia, says all 12 of them are still in good health.

IT'S A HIT!



Music streaming continues to grow in popularity in the UK, with numbers up for the sixth year in a row. There were 139 billion audio streams in 2020, according to the British Phonographic Industry. Harry Styles (above), Lewis Capaldi and Dua Lipa had the most streamed or bought albums.

QUICK NEWS

TO READ YOURSELF AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

FOOTY DOG ADOPTED

A stray dog who gatecrashed a Bolivian football match has been adopted by one of the players. Cachito, as fans named him, ran onto the pitch with a shoe in his mouth during the game between The Strongest and Nacional Potosí. Raúl Castro, a player for The Strongest who carried Cachito off the pitch, later said he would be adopting the cheeky pup.



BUTTER UP!

Residents in Pennsylvania, USA, are being urged to get creative and make their own slippery sculptures – out of butter! They can use up to five pounds (2.27kg) of the spreadable stuff, but must not use any food colouring or dye. The unusual competition is part of this year's virtual Pennsylvania Farm Show. What would you make?

CAMPING CHAMPION

A while ago, we told you about Max Woosey, who was sleeping outdoors in a tent to raise money for the hospice that looked after his friend and neighbour Rik, who died in February. Well, Max is still going strong! The 11-year-old has been camping outside since 29 March and hopes to do a full year. So far, he's raised more than £100,000 for North Devon Hospice. Incredible job, Max!

STRONGEST MAN

A man from Wiltshire has come second in the World's Strongest Disabled Man competition. Dave Walsh, who has multiple sclerosis, beat off competitors from across the world to take the runner-up spot. He's also the 2020 British champ. Dave said he felt great, just a little sore. Ouch!

PAP THAT PEBBLE!

Have you ever found an unusual stone or shell washed up on a beach? One Twitter user has been keeping his followers entertained by sharing bizarre pebble pictures. Poet Dean Wilson posts a "pebble of the day" from his daily beach walks, and plans to share 1,000 pictures. The photos have been getting thousands of likes!



YOUNG AUTHOR

Eight-year-old Milan Kumar has written his own book, after completing an epic reading challenge. Milan read 50 books in three months during last year's first lockdown, but he's now self-published his own story called *Covid Christmas Parade*. It's the tale of a young boy spreading festive joy during a pandemic. The money raised from book sales will go to the National Literacy Trust.

ELEPHANT RESCUE

CPR is an amazing thing to know how to do, as it can save someone's life if they stop breathing. It's normally done on humans but a Thai rescue worker used it to save a baby elephant that had been hit by a motorcycle. After watching a video clip to work out where the elephant's heart was, Mana Srivate pumped its chest and revived it! To find out how to perform CPR, visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/first-aid/cpr.



BRRRIILANT IDEA

A mountain road became a makeshift ski slope in Scotland over the holidays. The road in the Cairngorms was closed after heavy snowfall, which made it the perfect practice venue for a group of local skiing students from the Alpine Training Centre.

SWIMMING RECORD

A Danish swimmer has broken a world record by swimming 202 metres (662 feet) underwater with a single breath. Stig Severinsen said he wants to inspire children and raise awareness of protecting oceans and undersea life.

TERRIFIC TARDIS!

An eight-year-old *Doctor Who* fan had a surprise when his dad transformed his room into the TARDIS! Dad Phil Tucker recreated the awesome doorway for his son Luke. Mum Mandy shared pics on Twitter and it's been liked more than 150,000 times.



OXFORD VACCINES BEGIN



Margaret Keenan, 90 at the time, was the first person in the UK to receive the Pfizer jab, the first vaccine to be approved in the UK

Brian Pinker, 82, is the first person to receive the new Oxford vaccine

THE Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine started to be rolled out this week. It is the second vaccine to be approved for use in the UK, and there are more than half a million doses ready to be distributed among the country's health workers and the vulnerable.

The first person to receive the new Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine was 82-year-old Brian Pinker. Mr Pinker, who got his jab on 4 January, said he was proud the vaccine was developed in Oxford.

He added: "The nurses, doctors and staff today have all been brilliant and I can now really look forward to celebrating my 48th wedding anniversary with my wife Shirley later this year."

Boris Johnson has said that there will be a big increase in the number of vaccinations in the coming weeks.

The prime minister also said that there will be "tens of millions" of vaccine doses available by the end of March.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GRETA!

GRETA Thunberg turned 18 on Sunday 3 January.

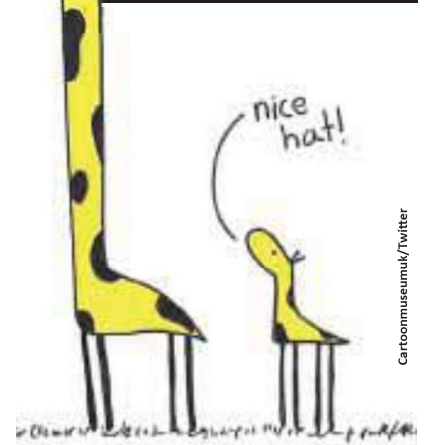
Officially now an adult, the climate activist thanked her fans on Twitter and made some jokey remarks aimed at her critics.

She tweeted: "Thank you so much for all the well-wishes on my 18th birthday!

"Tonight you will find me down at the local pub exposing all the dark secrets behind the climate and school strike conspiracy and my evil handlers who can no longer control me! I am free at last!!"



YOUNG CARTOONIST OF THE YEAR



Cartoonmuseumuk/Twitter

AN 11-year-old boy has won the Young Cartoonist of the Year under-18s award.

Daniel Meikle's winning cartoon shows a little giraffe looking at a big giraffe whose head is far out of sight. "Nice hat!" says the little giraffe.

Daniel said: "I like the enjoyment my cartoons give to people. It makes me happy, and it's a bit like writing – you can really tell a story." As well as winning £250, Daniel will have his cartoon displayed at The Cartoon Museum.

DOGS ARE FOR LIFE NOT JUST LOCKDOWN



HUNDREDS of puppies bought during 2020 are being sold or given to rescue centres now.

Since October, the Dogs Trust charity has received more than 1,800 calls from people looking to give up dogs under one year old. On 27 and 28 December alone, they had 114 calls. These 'lockdown puppies' are seen as impulse buys by people who were suddenly working from home during lockdown but didn't anticipate the time and effort it takes to look after a dog.

Adam Clowes from Dogs Trust wants to remind people that getting a dog is a 10 to 15-year commitment. He said: "All that initial lockdown excitement – 'We are never going to have to go into the office again, let's get a dog!' – we are now seeing the consequences of that."

4. NEWS IN PICTURES

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UK



Royal Mint

THE Royal Mint has released a set of commemorative coins for 2021, celebrating people and events from history. The coins will feature HG Wells, John Logie Baird and Sir Walter Scott, and there'll be a special coin to mark the 50th anniversary of Decimal Day (before then, a pound was 240 pence!). Another special coin to celebrate the Queen's 95th birthday will be worth £5.

EDINBURGH, UK



Lorna Hughes

KEEPERS at Edinburgh Zoo have shared a first-look image of the UK's only koala joey. The tiny joey, who was born on 26 June 2020, has been caught on camera for the first time peeking out of its mother's pouch. The joey will spend a few more months in the pouch before it is big enough to leave.

KASHMIR, INDIA



Getty

CLOTHES donated to the poor hang on the Wall of Kindness in Kashmir. Heavy snow in the region has led to the closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, the main road that connects Kashmir to the rest of India.

NEW YORK, USA



PEOPLE watch the moon from the Edge observation deck, which is 100 storeys above the ground and has a glass floor!

BAYINGOLIN, CHINA



Getty

THE Quadrantid meteor shower helped to light up the sky above Bosten Lake.



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BORIS Johnson signed a trade deal with the European Union in the last week of December, avoiding a 'no-deal' Brexit that risked causing a lot of disruption for the UK during the pandemic.

The deal is a legal document, over 1,200 pages long, that sets out the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

After the UK voted for Brexit in the referendum, back in the summer of 2016, the UK and EU began working on a withdrawal deal.

MPs struggled to agree on what should be in the deal, which caused many extensions and delays, and several deadlines were missed.

Following the election in 2019, however, the Conservative Party had enough MPs to be able to get their plan through Parliament.

The UK then left the EU on 31 January 2020. We entered a 'transition period', where we had 11 months to make a trade deal with the EU – and on the last possible day before negotiations ended, a deal was signed. The prime minister said that "the destiny of this great country now resides firmly in our hands." His critics say the deal makes the UK worse off, and the Scottish and Northern Irish parliaments both rejected it, but can't stop it.

So, what's in the deal? Well, loads, but only some of it will affect you! Here's what you need to know.

- Travel is changing! You'll need a visa (an approval from an EU country) to stay somewhere in the EU for longer than 90 days, and go through different passport checks when entering.
- There are new rules for taking pets abroad – and mobile phone operators could bring back different roaming charges.
- Things might take longer to arrive from the EU, since there will now be checks on goods coming into the UK.
- The UK is no longer in the Erasmus exchange programme which allowed UK university students to do part of their studies in the EU. Instead, the government has promised a new Turing scheme for students to travel to universities worldwide, not just in Europe.

"WE CAN'T CATCH THE BIG POLLUTERS"

THE head of the UK's Environment Agency has said that the organisation doesn't have the money to stop people from illegally polluting the countryside.

In a letter to environment secretary George Eustice, Emma Howard Boyd, the agency's chair, said that the organisation "no longer has the investment we need to protect and enhance the environment".

A director at the environmental charity Greenpeace told *The Times*: "Unless the Environment Agency is given the funds it needs to do its job, the quality of England's rivers and land will fall behind the EU".

HORSE VS WI-FI

WI-FI in rural Germany is so slow, it's quicker to send files via horse!

Klaus-Peter Kappest, a photographer from Oberkirchen in Germany, was sick of his slow internet. Getting just 1.5 megabits per second, around ten times lower than the lowest speeds in Berlin, Klaus-Peter suggested it might be faster to send files via horse to his editor.

While it was initially a joke, Klaus-Peter and his editor decided to put it to the test. They hired local horserider Jakob Schütte and his horse, Favo, to take a DVD containing 800 photos on a 10km ride to his

printer's office in Schmallenberg.

Klaus-Peter began uploading the images 20 minutes before Jakob and the horse set out. The horse took 104 minutes to deliver the DVD, while the upload took more than five hours!

The stunt worked, and Klaus-Peter's broadband provider has said it will provide fibre-optic broadband in the village, after being embarrassed by the story.



EDITOR'S COMMENT



WELL, here we are again in lockdown.

But it feels different this time. Back in March last year, we had no idea what was ahead and how we would crack the coronavirus pandemic.

This time, it feels like this should be our last national effort to hang on in there while the vaccine is rolled out across the country.

Spring beckons even more happily than usual – along with the shoots of flowers will be the shoots of recovery for the whole country.

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GOOD WEEK FOR...

WHAM!

THIRTY-SIX years after it was released, festive classic *Last Christmas* by Wham! has topped the UK charts. While the band gained one record, they lost another. Previously, *Last Christmas* was the UK's biggest-selling single never to have reached No1.



BAD WEEK FOR...

TICKETMASTER

TICKET sale site Ticketmaster has agreed to pay \$10 million (£7.3m) in fines after admitting that it hacked a rival ticket company's computers and stole information. US lawyers said the company "repeatedly and illegally accessed a competitor's computers".



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE:

What does lockdown mean for you?

- People can't leave home except for certain essential reasons like food shopping, visiting the doctor and exercise.
- People can only go to work if they can't do their jobs at home.
- Schools and colleges are closed to most pupils, with home learning until February half term.
- Summer exams won't happen as normal. Uni students will also be taught online.
- Non-essential shops will be closed and restaurants can only serve takeaways.
- Outdoor sports venues, such as golf courses, tennis courts and outside gyms, are closed, but outdoor playgrounds are open.
- Amateur team sports are not allowed, but professional sport such as Premier League football can continue.

CUMBRIA

Mountain rescues increase

The Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association reported a 70% increase in call-outs last month compared with December 2019. Chairman Richard Warren said that the rescues could have been avoided if hikers had used “good planning and preparation”. He added: “We understand why people want to leave their Tier 3 and Tier 4 areas, taking advantage of the wide open spaces in our parks, but please remember that if a team is infected on a rescue, it can mean the whole team has to isolate.”



Bowfell Mountain, Lake District

EDINBURGH

Zoo pandas may go

Edinburgh Zoo may have to return its two giant pandas to China because of money troubles. The zoo has looked after Tian Tian and Yang Guang for the last ten years and hoped to breed them to increase the global number of pandas, but that hasn't happened yet. Since the pandas cost £1m a year, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, which lost £2m in 2020, may have to give them back to the Chinese government to save money.



Tian Tian munches bamboo

SWANSEA



Solar-powered hospital

Morrison Hospital will be getting a quarter of its power from a nearby solar farm soon. The £5.7m solar farm is part of the Welsh Government's attempt to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. Swansea Bay University Health Board spends £6.9m each year on electricity, gas and water, and expects to save £1.5m a year using the 10,000 solar panels, as well as reducing annual carbon emissions by around 3,000 tonnes.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Medics finally married

Two paramedics who had to cancel their wedding four times have finally married. Beth Griffin and Rob Stewart tied the knot in Worcester, which was in Tier 2, with 15 guests. Due to the coronavirus, their original wedding had to be cancelled in March 2020, followed by three rescheduled dates. The happy couple had one day off to celebrate before returning to work at West Midlands Ambulance Service.

SOMERSET

Rare black fox returned home

A rare black fox that escaped from Animal Farm Adventure Park has returned safely. Wilf was found holding up traffic near Brea and returned home. The sneaky fox is known for jailbreaks, having escaped his old home in Manchester before being found in a clothes shop. Keeper Krystal Finch said: “Wilf does love an adventure and we were pre-warned that, whatever you do, he will find a way [to escape].” Black foxes are very rare and are thought to make up less than 0.1% of the UK's fox population.



AnimalFarmAdventurePark/Facebook

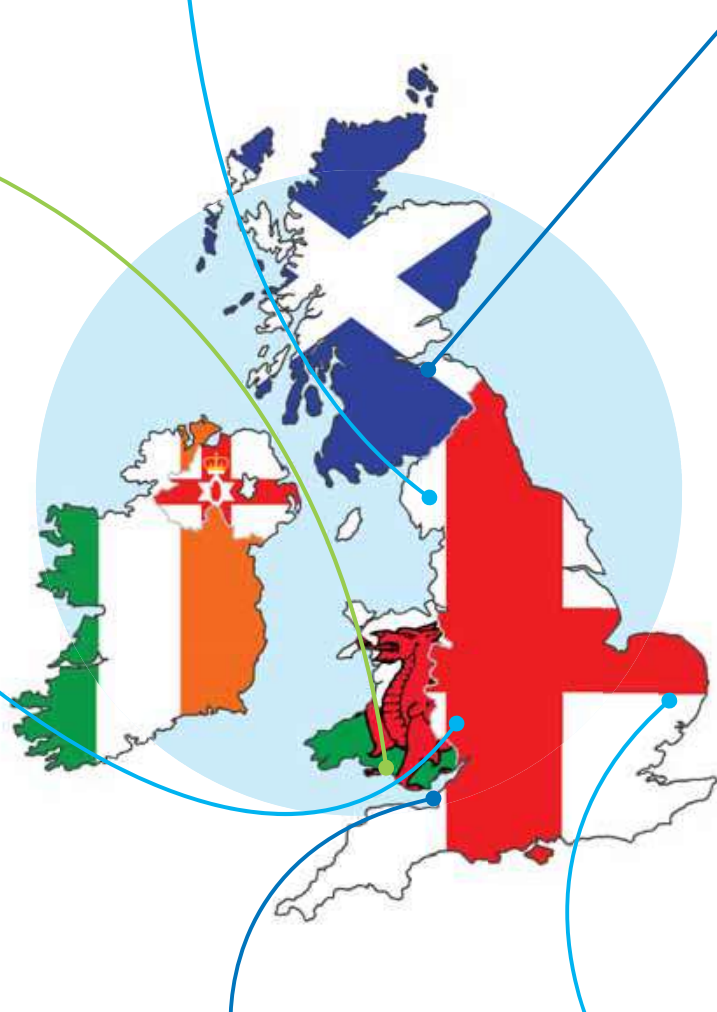
SUFFOLK

31 marathons in 31 days

Super-runner Ben Blowes has raised more than £150,000 for charity by running a marathon every day in December. The incredible feat saw Ben run a total of 1,307km (812.2 miles). That's about the same as running from Land's End in southwest England to John O'Groats in northeast Scotland! The money is for Tom's Trust, which supports children with brain tumours. Ben said: “Every painful step I take is nothing compared to what some of these kids are going through right now.”



tom's_trust/Twitter



UK



Money problems

Citizens Advice, the network of charities that help people with financial matters, took 12 calls every minute throughout 2020, it told the BBC. Some 1.1m people phoned for advice, while the website was visited 47.7m times, a 23% increase on 2019. Around 75% of the 481,834 people who called to ask about benefits had never done so before. Similarly, 83% of the 175,852 people who called about problems with their jobs were first-time callers, showing the effect that coronavirus and lockdowns have had on people's lives. Jamie McGlynn said: “It's really very sad. We're seeing people who have always been employed, say for 20 years at the same company, and need help navigating the benefits system for the first time after [losing their job].”