



HRH: Don't be scared of the jab - page 3

California's British Accent™ - Since 1984

Saturday, February 27, 2021 • Number 1876

Always Free

# 1 in 3 adults vaccinated as UK beats back new Covid variants

■ All willing UK adults can be vaccinated by July, claims Hancock

A THIRD of British adults have now had their first Covid-19 jab with signs that admissions to hospital are dropping faster than during the first lockdown, Matt Hancock has revealed.

The Health Secretary added that the Government was confident it had the supplies needed to vaccinate all over-50s by mid-April and every adult by the end of July.

Concerns remain about the Brazilian and South African variants but contact tracing, quarantine and other measures appear to be keeping them at bay, he added.

Latest figures show that more than 18 million people have now received a first vaccine dose and 615,000 have had their second.

Speaking on Monday, Mr Hancock said: "As of this morning, one in three of all adults in the whole country have been vaccinated - it's great news.

"We are confident that the vaccine works effectively against both the old strain that has been here for some time and the so-called Kent variant, which is now the main source of infection in this

country."

Mr Hancock said around 300 cases of the South African variant had been found but most were from over a month ago, with only "around a dozen" recent ones.

He also warned that although the vaccination drive is "clearly going very well", it will take some time to reach all vulnerable people.

Vaccine uptake has been far higher than the 75 per cent rate health chiefs had expected based on similar programmes such as flu. In some groups it has been 90 per cent.

## 'significant risk'

Leading epidemiologist Professor John Edmunds said offering the vaccine to all adults by the end of July would make a huge difference, but warned that any easing of lockdown must be slow.

He said: "If we eased off very rapidly now we would get another surge in hospitalisations, so we have to ease very

gradually, otherwise we will put the health service under pressure again and we'll get a surge in hospitalisations and deaths."

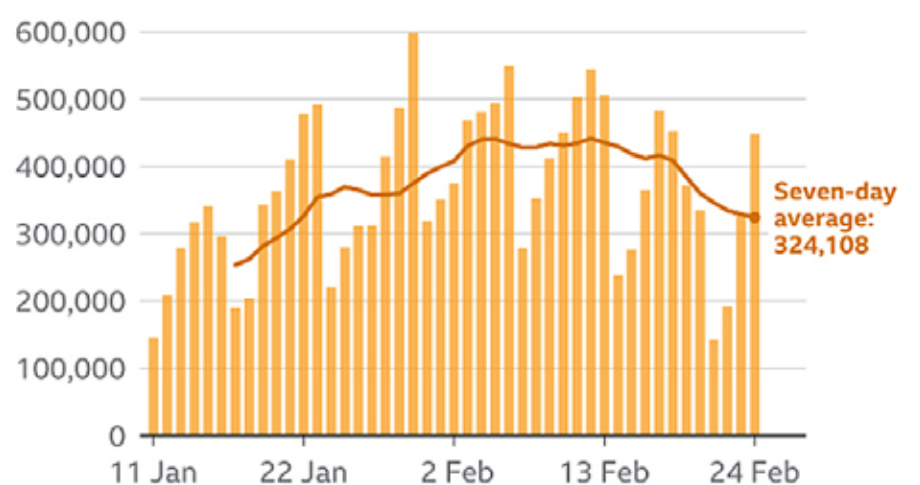
Prof Edmunds, who is a member of the Government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (Sage), also said there was "an argument for turning to children as fast as we can" in the jab rollout.

He said: "We're all at risk and we can all spread the virus, and so until we've all been vaccinated - I include children here - then there is going to be significant risk of a resurgence."

Meanwhile, Prof Adam Finn, a member of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), said he expected an announcement on the rollout for under-50s at some point this week.

He told BBC Breakfast: "The strategy from JCVI that's being provided as advice to the Government is just being finalised at

More than 18 million first doses given  
Daily first vaccine doses administered by date reported



Source: Gov.uk dashboard. Data to 24 Feb

the moment, and then Government will make their decision as to how to do this."

Prof Finn, from the University of Bristol, said studies had shown the vaccine programme was "beginning to have an impact" on hospital numbers.

## 'very cautious'

However, the main reason cases were going down was "primarily the lockdown and not the vaccine programme", he added. Statistician Prof Sir David Spiegelhalter said there was some proof to suggest vaccines were having an effect.

He told Times Radio: "There is evidence that

deaths in the over-85s and over-70s are dropping faster than deaths, for example, in the under-65s, who have not been vaccinated yet, and similarly for hospital admissions.

"It's not dramatic yet, but I think it's a strong enough signal to say it's certainly compatible with the effect of the vaccine." Sir David, of Cambridge University, agreed that ministers would need to be "very cautious" when easing restrictions.

He said: "A big surge in cases among lower-risk people who have not been vaccinated yet, if there's a real explosion...we will still see huge pressure on the NHS."

The Government has indicated that lockdown may be eased nationally, rather than through the tier system. But Sir David said "highly local" measures may be needed in pockets with high rates. He said some "scattered" areas were seeing more than 200 new cases per 100,000 people per week, which was "of concern".

He added: "What I understand is that they're going to try to have national measures rather than regional tiered systems since that caused such a lot of problems.

"But it seems to me that there's still going to be a need for highly local measures that might have to take place."

## News From Britain

# PALS NO MORE: Sturgeon blasts Salmond for 'wild conspiracy' claims

■ Rift grows between former SNP allies as harassment claims fallout drags on

Alex Salmond is to be questioned by MSPs over his claims of a "malicious and concerted" conspiracy against him.

The former first minister was scheduled to appear at Holyrood on Friday (after the BW went to press) as part of an inquiry into the government's mishandling of sexual harassment complaints about him.

The four-hour session was expected to focus on that botched probe and the accusations made by Mr Salmond.

Nicola Sturgeon has challenged her predecessor to prove his claims, saying

there is "not a shred of evidence".

The first minister was expected to give evidence to the inquiry committee herself on Wednesday.

Salmond's testimony has been delayed on several occasions due to a row over his written submissions, which make a range of accusations about the conduct of the first minister, government officials, the SNP and the prosecution service.

He wrote that there had been "a deliberate, prolonged, malicious and concerted effort amongst a range of individuals within the Scottish government

and the SNP to damage my reputation, even to the extent of having me imprisoned".

And he claimed there had been a "complete breakdown of the necessary barriers which should exist between government, political party and indeed the prosecution authorities".

## 'alternative reality'

He has also taken aim directly at Ms Sturgeon, accusing her of "repeatedly" misleading parliament about her involvement in the row and of breaching the ministerial code.

The SNP leader has hit back Mr Salmond's claims, saying he is

"creating an alternative reality in which the organs of the state... are all part of some wild conspiracy against him for reasons I can't explain".

And she has challenged him to back the allegations up with proof, saying he has an "obligation" to "replace the insinuation and assertion we have heard over several months now with evidence".

This latest development exposes the chasm between two politicians who have enjoyed a fruitful professional partnership lasting almost three decades.

Sturgeon had backed



**BIG FISH:** Salmond and Sturgeon had enjoyed a fruitful professional partnership in the SNP lasting almost three decades.

Salmond for the party leadership in 1990 and he encouraged her to stand for Westminster two years later, when she was just 21.

"He believed in me long before I believed in myself," she once said.

Alex Salmond was a mentor, ally and friend to the rising star of Scottish politics, but once news of the allegations emerged - together with private briefings from

civil servants advising Sturgeon of the strong evidence supporting the claims - the pair have parted ways.

Having controversially met or spoken to him five times during the investigation - in which she insists she played no part - Sturgeon broke off contact with him in July.

Since then relations have turned from frosty to hostile - with no sign of a thaw anytime soon.

# 'We are all keeping our fingers crossed'

■ Edward gives update as Duke fights infection in hospital

THE Duke of Edinburgh has an infection and is expected to stay in hospital for several more days, Buckingham Palace has announced.

The disclosure is the first official explanation for Prince Philip's admission last Tuesday. Palace officials said Philip, 99, was "comfortable and responding to treatment"

and his youngest son, Prince Edward, revealed his father's condition had improved.

It was not clear if Philip is suffering from a recurrence of the bladder infections that have dogged him previously, leading to at least two spells in hospital in 2012.

In December 2019 he was treated in hospital for a "pre-existing

condition" before being discharged on Christmas Eve after four nights.

Philip has been in King Edward VII's Hospital in London for over a week after being admitted as a precautionary measure.

Buckingham Palace said in a statement: "The Duke of Edinburgh remains at King Edward VII's Hospital, where he is receiving medical

attention for an infection.

"He is comfortable and responding to treatment but is not expected to leave hospital for several days."

The reason for his admission last week was not initially revealed by the Palace, with a statement saying he was in for "a few days of observation and rest".

Sources said a doctor at Windsor Castle had advised him to go into hospital after he complained of feeling unwell. But they stressed it was not an emergency admission and had been done out of "an abundance of caution".

Prince Edward, 56, spoke to reporters after speaking to his father, saying: "He's a lot better, thank you very much, and he's looking forward to getting out, which is the most positive thing. So we keep our fingers crossed."

Asked whether Philip was frustrated to be



**PHILIP:** the Prince, who has been hospitalized for more than a week, was said to be "comfortable and responding to treatment".

in hospital, Edward laughed and replied: "Just a bit. I think that gets to all of us...the walls are only so interesting."

## Opportunity

He thanked well-wishers and said: "We've had some brilliant and lovely messages...we really appreciate that and so does he. I've been passing them on. It's fantastic, thank you."

On Saturday, Prince Charles was driven on a 200-mile round trip from Gloucestershire to see his father. His visit sparked public concern because members of the

Royal Family often do not get family visitors in hospital because of the disruption to staff.

But sources suggested Charles, 72, had not seen his father for a long time because of the pandemic and had wanted to grab the opportunity.

The Queen remains at Windsor undertaking her duties while her husband of 73 years is in hospital.

She and Philip have spent the third national lockdown and most of the previous two at Windsor, missing their usual Christmas at Sandringham.



171 Pier Ave. Ste. 121 • Santa Monica CA 90405  
Tel: (310) 452 2621 • Fax: (310) 314-7653  
editor@british-weekly.com  
www.british-weekly.com • Twitter/BritishWeekly



**Managing Editor:** Neil Fletcher

**Deputy Editor:** Nick Stark

**Contributing Writers:** Sean Borg, Alan Darby Drake, John Hiscock, Eileen Lee, Rick Parcell, Anne Shaw, Nick Stark, Craig Bobby Young

**Showbusiness Editor:** Sean Borg

**Advertising Manager:** Mark Devlin

**Legal Notices and DBAs:** Mirelle Woolf

**Distribution:** Mirelle Woolf, Mercedes Grey

**Subscriptions:** 6 months: \$33, 1 year: \$54 (1st class)

The British Weekly is published every Saturday and is available at multiple locations in Southern California. Circulation: 25,000. The British Weekly has been adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in Court Judgement No. SS008371. Copyright: no news stories, illustrations, editorial matter or advertisements can be reproduced without written permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved ©2017 The British Weekly. The British Weekly welcomes your letters and accepts unsolicited articles for publication. All submissions - including photographs - become property of the British Weekly and are subject to editing and/or deletion at Editor's discretion.

California's British Accent™ - Since 1984

# Harry and Meghan 'had no idea they were about to lose their royal roles'

THE Duke and Duchess of Sussex had no idea they were about to lose their royal patronages when they did their controversial tell-all interview with Oprah Winfrey last week, it has been revealed. The TV company is now expected to ask them to reshoot parts of

it, so Oprah can ask them how they feel about the Queen's decision.

In any case, the interview is having to be edited to take account of the Palace's announcement last Friday.

The issue of Harry and Meghan's role within the Royal Family came to a head last week when they blindsided the Queen by agreeing to an intimate chat with Oprah.

It led to the couple, ensconced in their £11million Californian mansion and not having visited the UK for almost a year, losing their military and sporting patronages.

## 'insulting'

Just minutes after Buckingham Palace made the announcement, in which the Queen said the couple remained "much-loved members" of the family, the Sussexes issued their own statement, seen by many as a swipe at her and the Windsors.

They said that "service is universal", which could be interpreted as meaning they don't care about not having the titles.

## Disrespect

According to the Sunday Times, a source close to Her Majesty described the response as "petulant and insulting to the Queen".

The source added: "Don't disrespect your granny, Harry." Another warned: "You don't answer the Queen back - it's just not done."

Meanwhile sources close to William, 38, said he believed his brother and Meghan, 39, had been "insulting and disrespectful" to the Queen, and he was

people rather than themselves". It comes after UK vaccines minister Nadhim Zahawi said figures suggested 11-15% of people were vaccine-hesitant, with data skewed toward some black and ethnic minority communities. Some studies have also found disparities between poorer and wealthier areas. Dr Emily Lawson, who is leading the vaccine deployment programme for the NHS in England, said the Queen's comments about her vaccine experience were an "incredibly important vote of confidence in the programme". "We just want to make sure we create the conditions where everybody feels able to take up the offer of a vaccination when they're called," she said. "And Her Majesty offering her view on that is a huge boost to our confidence and I hope to confidence more broadly in the programme."



## "It didn't hurt at all"

### ■ Queen urges subjects to get jab

The Queen has urged people to get a Covid vaccine when they are offered one, saying hers "didn't hurt at all".

The monarch, 94, and the Duke of Edinburgh, 99, received their first doses of the vaccine in January.

In a video call with health leaders delivering the Covid vaccine across the UK on Thursday, the Queen (above) was asked about her experience of having the jab.

She smiled as she replied: "Well, as far as I can make out it was quite harmless."

"It was very quick, and I've had lots of letters from people who've been very surprised by how easy it was to get the vaccine."

"It didn't hurt at all," the Queen said, adding that she has since felt "protected".

The monarch said she understood getting a jab could be a "difficult" experience for some people but urged everyone to "think about other



**POWER SHIFT?** The royal couple may shoot an update to their interview with Oprah following the news they were losing their royal patronages

"very upset by what has happened".

Courtiers and other family members were equally upset by the tone of the pair's response.

It is usual for members of the Royal Family to run any TV interviews past the Queen first.

In Harry and Meghan's sit-down talk with the US queen of chat, it is understood they spoke about their roles within the Royal Family, which have significantly altered since the interview was filmed.

One US TV insider said that the network CBS, which is broadcasting the interview, would like to reshoot some of the show to discuss the changes that have taken place.

A source said: "When the Duke and Duchess spoke, it was never envisaged they would have their patronages taken away. They didn't see it coming and spoke

as if they still had roles to play.

"Now, however, they are to have no role in royal life - a point producers know was not discussed when Oprah spoke to them. Neither the Sussexes nor the TV crew saw the fallout of their interview leading to this.

"Harry and Meghan thought they would retain their roles. But things have significantly changed since they poured their hearts out to Oprah."

The interview is said to have started last Tuesday, when Prince Philip was admitted to hospital "as a precautionary measure".

Oprah is thought to have spent two days with the Sussexes for the show. An international bidding war for the rights to the program is now under way, ahead of its March 7 broadcast on CBS. It is scheduled

to air at 8pm on the east coast of the US, which will be 1am on March 8 in Britain.

The Sussexes are said to have agreed to the interview as they "wanted the final say on Megxit". A royal source said that when the program airs it will be "time to hide behind the sofa at the palace".

The Queen only learned of the interview when CBS hurriedly issued a statement after a producer working for Oprah mistakenly alerted ITV to the project.

They asked for access to Tom Bradby's 2019 interview with Meghan in which she complained no one had asked her if she was "ok".

Meghan, who is expecting her second child, will be the main focus of the new show as she discusses "stepping into life as a royal, marriage, motherhood, philanthropic work..."



**The British Grocer**

**BRITISH OWNED & OPERATED FOR OVER 25 YEARS!**

*Large Selection of Afternoon Tea Sets & British Gifts*

**All Your Favorites: McVities Biscuits, Typhoo Tea, HP Sauce, Heinz Baked Beans, English Sweets and Much, Much More!**

facebook

[www.thebritishgrocer.com](http://www.thebritishgrocer.com)

follow us on twitter

**Villa del Sol • 305 N. Harbor Blvd., Suite 124 • Fullerton**  
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK! CALL FOR HOURS: 714.738.0229**

## News From Britain



**Tom Bateman....and he's a sassanach! Scots show no love for Netflix hit**

SCOTS have hit out at Netflix series *Behind Her Eyes* for branding people from Scotland as "stingy", "bad-tempered" and "miserable".

Stewart Hosie, SNP MP for Dundee East, said: "These daft, tasteless, inaccurate and very outdated stereotypes should be consigned to history."

Neither of the two main Scottish characters in the series are played by Scots.

Oxford-born Tom Bateman puts on a Scottish accent, dubbed "brutal" by some viewers.

In the second episode of the adaptation, one character – a secretary called Sue – remarks of Tom's "miserable" character: "They say that about the Scots, don't they?"

After watching the drama, Glaswegian singer Eddi Reader, fumed: "Did anyone else catch the anti-Scot script? Apparently all Scots are either miserable or mean."

The frontwoman of Fairground Attraction, spoke online with Sarah Pinborough, who wrote the original novel. Eddi claimed: "The author told me that she didn't write those racist lines."

Sarah responded publicly to one of Eddi's comments, telling her: "I'm half Scottish so defo wasn't meant that way."

None of the 11 mentions of Scotland in the novel feature derogatory remarks about Scots.

## Former Mrs. Rednapp reveals suicidal thoughts

■ Louise reveals struggles with domesticity and seeing ex-hubby with new flame

LOUISE Rednapp thought about jumping in front of a bus when her marriage to football star Jamie ended.

The singer, 46, said the only thing that stopped her was the thought of their two sons, Charley, now 16, and Beau, 12.

She also admitted she wished she had tried harder to save her marriage. She told a magazine: "I would be standing in central London, watching the buses whizz past..."

"All it would take was for me to step out at the wrong moment and it would be over."

Asked if she seriously considered suicide she said: "I think so, for a split second. "But I've got two little men who need me more than anything."

Louise wed Jamie, now 47, in 1998 but they



**LOUISE:** "All it would take was for me to step out at the wrong moment and it would be over."

split in 2017, following her stint on *Strictly Come Dancing*. Louise said: "I didn't want to lose so much of the good feeling. Before anyone could stop me, I just ran, as fast as the wind would take me. I never once looked behind, until maybe too late."

Asked if she could

have saved the marriage, she said: "All I know is, I wish I'd tried."

She also admitted that seeing Jamie, who is now dating Swedish model Frida Andersson-Lourie, reinvent himself as a star pundit on Sky Sports was difficult, especially when she was a housewife at their



**PUBLIC EYE:** former husband Jamie with his new girlfriend, Swedish model Frida Andersson-Lourie

home in Surrey.

She said: "Although I was so pleased for him, it was a constant reminder that I wasn't doing that [showbiz] any more."

"I was the one just

putting stuff in the oven, waiting for someone to come home from the job I wished I was doing.

"And I think that really does take its toll."

## I'll give up UK citizenship for bail, says Ghislaine Maxwell

■ Former socialite desperate to get out of New York jail

GHISLAINE Maxwell says she will give up her British citizenship if a US court frees her on bail while she awaits trial accused of allegedly trafficking under-age girls for paedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

Maxwell, 59, a friend of Prince Andrew, is currently in a New York jail accused of helping boyfriend Epstein recruit three teenage girls for sex.

US financier Epstein, 66, killed himself in prison in 2019, while awaiting trial for alleged sex offences.

**"priceless asset"**

A judge has refused two previous bail applications but in a third bid, the daughter of disgraced media tycoon Robert Maxwell

says she will renounce her British and French citizenships to prove she will not flee abroad. Maxwell denies all the charges against her and in her latest court filing, her lawyers state she has no desire to leave the US.

The document says Maxwell would agree to give up her foreign citizenship "to eliminate any opportunity for her to seek refuge in those countries".

Her lawyers also proposed Maxwell's and her husband Scott Borgerson's multi-million-pound assets be placed in a monitored account.

Her lawyer Bobbi Sternheim, who described British citizenship as a "priceless asset", said the move would be "sufficient to address the hypothetical

risk of flight and secure Ms Maxwell's presence at trial".

Maxwell, who was born in France but raised in the UK, has been accused of child sex abuse, grooming and perjury.

She and is awaiting trial later this year while being held at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Centre.

Epstein's victims claim Maxwell acted as his recruiter in the 1990s, convincing girls and young women to visit the multi-millionaire's properties in Florida, the Virgin Islands and New York, where he would abuse them.

The Duke of York, 61, stepped back from royal duties for the "foreseeable future" in 2019 over what he called his "ill judged" friendship with Epstein.



**GHISLAINE MAXWELL:** friends in low places?

He has been accused of having sex with Virginia Roberts, then 17.

The Prince has vehemently denied the claims.

## Williams biopic will pull no punches, insists director

A FILM based on Robbie Williams' life is being made by the director of hit musical *The Greatest Showman*.

Better Man will explore the singer's drug and drink demons, said Michael Gracey.

The director, who spent

hours talking with the star, said: "As for how we represent Robbie, that is top secret."

I want to do this in a really original way.

"Going to the cinema as a kid there were films that blew me away and made

cont. on page 5, col 4

# Leeds and Man U star McQueen 68, suffering from dementia

■ Towering defender enjoyed successful career for club and country

**THE FAMILY of former football ace Gordon McQueen has confirmed he is suffering from vascular dementia.**

The 68-year-old ex-defender was diagnosed last month, following a stellar career with Scotland, Leeds and Manchester United.

He is the latest football star to have the cruel disease, prompting McQueen's wife Yvonne, daughters Hayley and Anna and son Edward to wonder if his habit of staying behind to practise headers had had an effect.

They said: "Whilst we've found it hard to come to terms with the changes in Dad, he has no regrets about his career and has lived life to the

full."

They also revealed that he wanted today's footballers to know there may be risks. "Dad scored some important goals in his career and memorable headers. But he used to stay back in training, heading the ball to the goalkeeper for practice, over and over.

"He does wonder if this has been a factor in his dementia as his symptoms appeared in his mid-60s."

They added that the past year had been tough: "Social interaction is key for someone with dementia and he has been deprived of this for so long. He is fully aware of his friends and family still and his memory of

all things football is sharp, but his cognitive functions are not the same.

"We hope sharing this will help Dad to face the future in a positive way."

McQueen (pictured, above right) started at St Mirren before moving to Elland Road and playing a key role in Leeds' run to the 1975 European Cup final. The centre-back joined Man United in 1978, helping them win the FA Cup five years later, represented Scotland 30 times and became a Sky Sports pundit.

Dementia has hit a string of footballing legends in recent years, including McQueen's Leeds teammate, the late Jack Charlton, plus Nobby Stiles, Martin Peters and



Ray Wilson. Sir Bobby Charlton was diagnosed last year.

A 2019 Glasgow University study revealed that former pro footballers

are 3.5 times more likely to die from dementia than members of the public.

## Williams:

cont. from page 4

me say, 'I've never seen this before'.

"I want the audience to have that feeling."

The Australian, best known for directing the 2017 blockbuster musical *The Greatest Showman*, starring Hugh Jackman, told US website *Deadline*: "It's this fantastical story, and I want to represent it in its harsh reality all the way

to these moments of pure fantasy."

Robbie, 47, shot to stardom in *Take That* before quitting in 1995 and enjoying a hugely successful solo career.

The star, whose hits include *Angels* and *Supreme*, has been open about his booze and drug problems.

He moved to Los Angeles in 2006 and is married to American TV star Ayda Field, 41. They have four

children.

Michael said: "Robbie dreamed big and followed those dreams and they took him to an incredible place.

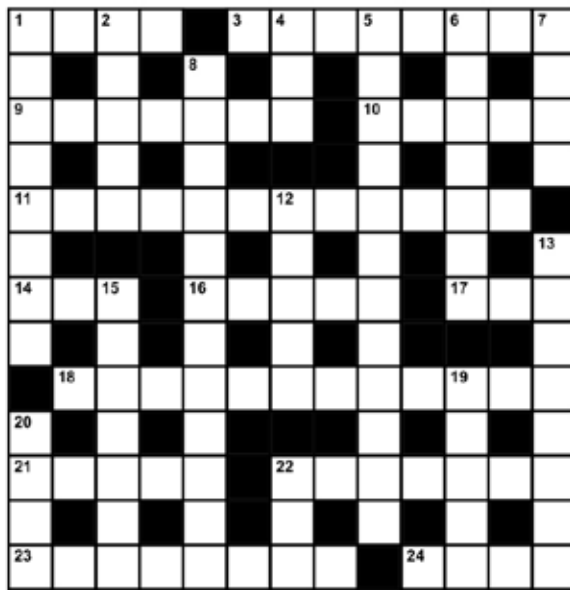
"His is an incredibly relatable story. He's not the best singer or dancer and yet managed to sell 80 million records."

The director, who worked on 2019 Elton John movie *Rocketman*, said that Robbie's songs will be re-sung "for the emotion of the moment" in the film.

### The British Weekly Crossword by Myles Mellor. #480

**Across**

- 1 English captain (4)
- 3 Frightful (8)
- 9 Envisioned (7)
- 10 Kinds of plants (5)
- 11 Of worldwide scope (12)
- 14 Modern (3)
- 16 Rolls' first aero engine (5)
- 17 Imperfection (3)
- 18 Act of enrolling (12)
- 21 A great find (5)
- 22 Ideal (7)
- 23 Excess (8)
- 24 Ragout or burgoo (4)



**Down**

- 1 Marking down (8)
- 2 Hot spots (5)
- 4 Roulette bet (3)
- 5 Ice box (12)
- 6 Rifle or revolver (7)
- 7 Detective's assignment (4)
- 8 Poor (12)
- 12 Should, with "to" (5)
- 13 Just out (5-3)
- 15 Grapple (7)
- 19 Dostoevsky's "The \_\_\_" (5)
- 20 Audio effect (4)
- 22 Carrier (3)

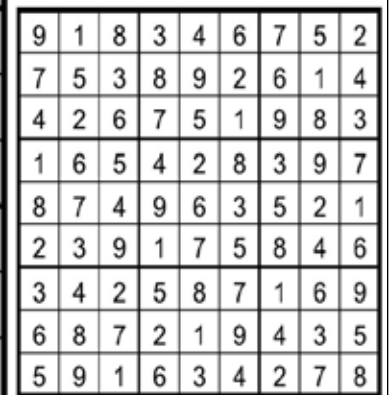
#### Solution to Puzzle #479



### The British Weekly Sudoku by Myles Mellor #480



#### Solution to Sudoku #479



## Go Green...Go Grey

Help Save the Environment  
Help Save an Endangered  
Manatee Today

**Adopt-A-Manatee!**



www.savethemanatee.org

Photo © Robyn Churchill





## Brits in LA



## My long road out of lockdown...and back to my love

By Zachary Street

EVERYONE'S Covid story is different. Mine begins back in September of 2018 when I was first introduced by Sandro Monetti to my now-wife, Holly Payne at the ever-amazing Brits in L.A. pub quiz at the Cat and Fiddle.

We instantly had a connection, like something beyond our control had drawn us together that fateful night. We had only just met, but I knew instantly that I was falling for Holly. Over the next few months we spent nearly every day together while I was in L.A., until it finally came time for me to fly home to England. Over the course of the next year and a half, despite many months and many miles apart, our love grew. Holly came to visit me in the UK several times, and we had finally started to make a plan for me to visit her in Los Angeles in February 2019. But just as we were sorting out the itinerary for our L.A. reunion, Covid struck the world. Travel bans were put in place, and we were now stuck indefinitely on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Travelling to L.A. should have been easy; at any other time, I'd simply hop on a plane to be with her, but Covid had other plans for us. Holly and I were devastated. Like everyone else, we hunkered down in the hopes that we would see only a short break from society norms for a few months, but as we now know, that break would

never come. Throughout those early Covid months, we continued to imagine ways we could safely find a way to be together.

### Making a plan

We spent many a sleepless night talking on Skype and Zoom, willfully rebelling against our eight hour time delay, playing countless games of Words With Friends, watching movies, making meals together via our computer screens, all the while not knowing when we would be able to hold each other again. But after months of research and planning, we managed to work out a safe way for me to travel without risk to my own health or the health of others. Our plan however would involve me travelling for a total of eighteen days to three separate countries, and five international cities. I'd need to pack enough luggage to last me three months in L.A., while simultaneously securing my gear enough to minimize contamination. Determined, I loaded myself up with surgical gloves, double filtered government-issue masks, face shields and hand sanitizer to last my entire trip.

My journey began in my hometown of Deal, Kent, then a stop in Folkestone, and then to London where I would stay the night before heading off from Heathrow to Amsterdam the following day. From Amsterdam, I'd fly to Mexico City where I would quarantine for fifteen nights. I was hell bent on reuniting

with Holly and driven by my determination to make it to L.A. safely and to not contract this deadly disease. Still, after taking every possible precaution, I was terrified that I would be turned away once I got to LAX, and be forced to return to the UK before I'd even made it out of my gate. Could this really work? Well, I'd have plenty of time to dwell on it while quarantining in Mexico. And thanks to Covid, I was the only guest at my hotel for thirteen of the fifteen days I was there. This meant staying there felt like being holed up in some kind of weird tropical paradise bunker.

### Me and Mexico

For thirteen days it was just me and my lovely hosts, the owners of Casa Emilia Hotel. It felt like we were survivors of a zombie apocalypse that we knew was raging outside, but inside, we were safe and secure within our little paradise complex.

For those fifteen days in Mexico, I killed time watching Mexican TV and movies, eating way too many quesadillas, making short films, and battling cabin fever in anxious anticipation of my pending arrival at LAX. What lifted my spirits was the bliss of knowing that the time difference between me and Holly now was only two hours! Finally we could spend most of our days talking on Zoom without having to stay up till the wee hours just to catch a glimpse of each other. Every morning of my Mexican quarantine I was running system checks on my body, inspecting it and taking note of even the slightest change to make sure I didn't have the virus.

Finally, after fifteen strange and memorable days, my departure date had arrived! So far so good! No fever, and no symptoms to speak of! I bid farewell to my amazing hosts and was



LOVE FINDS A WAY: Zachary and Holly

finally on my way in a private taxi to board my flight to reunite with Holly in Los Angeles! Well... not yet... alas, I was thwarted yet again and rerouted for a stopover in Salt Lake City. Great. Just what I needed. Yet another pan-inducing delay! But never mind. I remained calm and boarded my flight to SLC. Upon my arrival at Salt Lake City Customs, I was surprised to find that it was like having a chat to an old friend. All of my paranoia started to melt away. My customs officer even seemed surprised that I was wearing a mask, as in his words, "I was too young to worry about getting Covid and therefore had nothing to

fear".

I called Holly from the SLC airport, and she asked me urgently, "Did they stamp your passport? Because if they did, YOU'RE IN! You've made it through!!! You're safe!". They had, and I was. We both breathed a huge sigh of relief. Now it was only a matter of hours until I'd be with her in L.A. The giddy excitement was really setting in now. I landed in L.A., and it was magically effortless. I had made it! After eighteen days of travel, anticipation, paranoia, and excitement, there she was, standing right there in front of me! We could barely speak, we were so overcome with emotion.

We felt like we had done the impossible, like we had pulled off a bank heist! Love had won! On our drive home we blasted the Star Wars theme, me sat in the backseat, and we felt like we had our life back.

After being together in L.A. for three months, we decided that we would never be forced apart again and promptly got married in Vegas with our good friend and fellow Brits in L.A. member Blaise Serra as our witness and Elvis as our officiant! We've been a husband and wife in lockdown for five months now, and even with all its struggles, life is absolute bliss. Love always finds a way!

## HARE & HOUNDS

Now featuring delicious, traditional handmade pies and pasties from Deli-SA. Chicken curry pasties, Cornish pasties, Steak & Kidney...and much more

Teas • Candy • Pastries • Bangers • Meat Pies • Heinz Beans • China Teapots • Tea Cozies • Gifts

*Quality Imports from the British Isles...*

2995 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks. (parking in rear)  
Open: Mon-Sat. 10.30-5.30 • Sun: 10-6 • Tel: (805) 495-4042



# Stargazing with Annie Shaw



**ARIES:** Now is a good time to get ready for putting your financials goal for Spring at the top of your to-do list. Do not think that because it's been dormant for a while that you cannot start afresh.

**TAURUS:** You could be feeling nervous about your future plans this coming week. This is due to your boss planet Venus moving backwards in Aquarius. Do not be vague on how to improve this area, it's time to take control.

**GEMINI:** Your boss planet Mercury is moving forward this week. This is a good time to catch up with distant friends and unfinished business of every kind. Next week business picks up speed.

**CANCER:** Be strong now and do not let anything stop you from completion in anything outstanding. Your moods always change quickly and so gravitate to friends and others who will support you in all ways.

**LEO:** You should be starting to feel more upbeat and ready to take the world on in every way. It's not been a settled time in your life of late. However as you should know, nothing lasts forever. Onward and upwards.

**VIRGO:** Next week life may not go in the expected direction. This is due in part to your boss Mercury moving sluggishly forward. So do not push too hard, let fate take a hand and it will get better by midweek.

**LIBRA:** Any plans set in stone will not be easy to move forward. However if you have patience and foresight you will know nothing will go by you if it's meant for you. You can still make plans just don't act on them yet.

**SCORPIO:** Life has been at somewhat of a standstill for a few weeks now. While it has not been easy for you, know nothing last forever. You will get a reward very soon, it's on its way. Life is picking up speed.

**SAGITTARIUS:** It's not currently a time to be self-indulgent or indeed to give to others. This is only for a short while and in fact by late next week you will be in a better place overall.

**CAPRICORN:** Life has been throwing you some curveballs this past month. For some it's time to take a break away from family and friends. You are not infallible, just know that by keeping a low profile it will be better soon.

**AQUARIUS:** By refusing to acknowledge something or someone you are playing a game. This will not be to your advantage now. Be honest as only you can be to yourself and see the difference soon.

**PISCES:** Its the beginning of your new year and Mercury which deals with all kinds of communications is strolling slowly forward now. Dont look down, just look life straight in the face. You will have a better month ahead. Happy Birthday!

**Go Green...Go Grey**  
 Help Save the Environment  
 Help Save an Endangered Manatee Today  
**Adopt-A-Manatee!**

[www.savethemanatee.org](http://www.savethemanatee.org)

**2009 Mini Cooper S Turbo For Sale**

**115,000 miles. Runs Great. New brakes, new tires. Bluetooth stereo. \$7500 obo. Call now (310) 699-7783**

**HughesNet Gen5**  
for Business

America's #1 Choice for Satellite Internet

- Get **Free** Standard Installation!
- Get More Data + Free Off-Peak Data
- Always On, **No Phone Line** Required
- Built-in **Wi-Fi** for Wireless Devices

Packages Starting at Only **\$69<sup>99</sup>** per mo

**25** MBPS download speeds\*

**DATA LIMITS**

**FREE** Standard Installation

**HughesNet** Limited Time Savings — Call Today! **1-855-634-6618**  
 AUTHORIZED RETAILER HughesNet Gen5 For Business

HughesNet is a registered trademark of Hughes Network Systems, LLC an EchoStar Company. Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.hughesnet.com for details. \*Free standard installation valid on Lease option only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. \*\*Actual speeds may vary and are not guaranteed. †If you exceed your monthly plan data, you will experience reduced data speeds, may be as low as or slower than 1 Mbps, until your next billing period.











Wednesday's Football Results

UEFA Champions Lge Round of 16 First Leg ATALANTA (0).....0 REAL MADRID (0).....1

M'GLADBACH (0)...0 MAN CITY (1).....2

UEFA Europa League Round of 32 Second Leg TOTTENHAM (1).....4 WOLFSBERGER AC (0) 0

Agg: 8-1; Tottenham win 8-1 on aggregate.

Sky Bet Championship

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Norwich, Brentford, Swansea, Reading, Cardiff, Burnham, Barnsley, Middlesbrough, Stoke, Millwall, Bristol City, QPR, Preston North End, Blackburn, Nottm Forest, Luton, Derby, Huddersfield, Coventry, Birmingham, Rotherham, Sheff Wed, Wycombe, Bournemouth, Cardiff, Barnsley, Blackburn, Brentford, Mbeumo, Ghoddos, Sorenson.

PRESTON (0).....0 QPR (0).....0 SWANSEA (0).....1 COVENTRY (0).....0

Sky Bet League Two WALSALL (0).....0 NEWPORT (0).....1

FOREST GRN (0).....1 SOUTHEND (1).....3

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Cambridge, Forest Green, Cheltenham, Morecambe, Tranmere, Newport County, Exeter, Salford City, Bolton, Carlisle, Bradford, Leyton Orient, Harrogate Town, Crawley Town, Walsall, Scunthorpe, Oldham, Port Vale, Mansfield, Stevenage, Colchester, Southend, Barrow, Grimsby.

Scottish Premiership ST MIRREN (0).....0 MOTHERWELL (0) 0

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Rangers, Celtic, Hibernian, Aberdeen, Livingston, St Mirren, Dundee Utd, St Johnstone, Motherwell, Ross County, Kilmarnock, Hamilton, France, Spain, Holland.

Weekend Premier League Results

BURNLEY (0) 0 WEST BROM (0) 0 FULHAM (0) 1 SHEFF UTD (0) 0

LIVERPOOL (0) 0 EVERTON (1) 2

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 CHELSEA (0) 1

ARSENAL (0) 0 MANCHESTER CITY (1) 1

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 LEICESTER (2) 2

MANCHESTER UTD (1) 3 NEWCASTLE (1) 1

WEST HAM (1) 2 TOTTENHAM (0) 1

PLAYED FRIDAY Wolves 1 Leeds 0

SCOTLAND Scottish Premiership ABERDEEN (1).....1 KILMARNOCK (0).....0

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Hearts, Dundee, Raith, Queen of South, Dundee, Arbroath, Morton, Inverness CT, Ayr, Alloa, Rangers, Dundee Utd, Ross County, Celtic, St Johnstone, Motherwell, Livingston, Inverness CT, Dumbarton, Forfar.

SCOTLAND Scottish League One Falkirk.....11 6 3 2 18 8 21

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Cove Rangers, Montrose, Airdrieonians, Partick, East Fife, Peterhead, Dumbarton, Clyde, Forfar, Dundee Utd, Ross County, Celtic, St Johnstone, Motherwell, Livingston, Inverness CT, Dumbarton, Forfar.

SCOTLAND Scottish League Two Queen's Park.....9 7 2 0 18 5 23

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Elgin, Stranraer, Stirling, Edinburgh City, Stehouster, Annan Athletic, Cowdenbeath, Albion, Brechin, Dundee Utd, Ross County, Celtic, St Johnstone, Motherwell, Livingston, Inverness CT, Dumbarton, Forfar.

Two day defeat leaves England in tailspin

Third Test, Ahmedabad (day two), England 112 (Crawley 53; Axar 6-38) & 81 (Axar 5-32, Ashwin 4-48). India 145 (Rohit 66, Root 5-8, Leach 4-54) & 49-0. India won by 10 wickets

England succumbed to a 10-wicket defeat against India inside two days of an astonishing third Test in Ahmedabad this week.

On a scarcely believable day when both sides collapsed and 17 wickets fell in two sessions, India completed the quickest Test win since 1935 not long into the final session.

England began the day with a thrilling fightback, turning India's overnight 99-3 into 145 all out.

But, faced with a first-innings deficit of 33, England were bowled out for 81 as India's spinners ran riot once again.

In a frenzied start to their second innings, England lost Zak Crawley and Jonny Bairstow within three balls - both bowled by Axar Patel.

Ben Stokes and Joe Root briefly calmed the raucous atmosphere but their dismissals in consecutive overs sparked a sorry procession to England's

Monday Results

Premier League BRIGHTON (0).....1 CRYSTAL PAL (1).....2

Wolves 1 Leeds 0

SCOTLAND Scottish Premiership ABERDEEN (1).....1 KILMARNOCK (0).....0

SCOTLAND Scottish League One Falkirk.....11 6 3 2 18 8 21

SCOTLAND Scottish League Two Queen's Park.....9 7 2 0 18 5 23

Tuesday's Football Results

UEFA Champions Lge Round of 16 First Leg AT MADRID (0).....0 CHELSEA (0).....1

LAZIO (0).....1 BYN MUNICH (3).....4

Premier League LEEDS (0).....3 SOUTHMPTN (0).....0

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various football clubs including Man City, Man Utd, Leicester, West Ham, Chelsea, Liverpool, Everton, Aston Villa, Tottenham, Leeds, Arsenal, Wolves, Crystal Palace, Southampton, Burnley, Brighton, Newcastle, Fulham, West Brom, Sheff Utd.

Sky Bet Championship BIRMINGHAM (1).....1 NORWICH (1).....3

DERBY (1).....2 HUDDERSFLD (0).....0

LUTON (0).....1 MILLWALL (0).....1

MIDDLESBRO (0).....1 BRISTOL C (3).....3

ROTHAM (0).....0 NOTTM FOR (0).....1

WYCOMBE (0).....1 READING (0).....0

Sky Bet League One AFC WIMB'DN (0).....1 GILLINGHAM (0).....0

BLACKPOOL.....P DONCASTER.....P

BRISTOL RVRS (0).....1 WIGAN (0).....2

CHARLTON (1).....1 BURTON ALB (1).....2

CREWE (1).....2 ACCRINGTON (0).....0

HULL (0).....0 IPSWICH (1).....1

LINCOLN C (1).....2 SWINDON (2).....2

NORTHMPTN (0).....0 ROCHDALE (0).....0

OXFORD UTD (0).....0 PORTSMTH (0).....1

PLYMOUTH (0).....0 PETERBORO (0).....3

SHRWSBURY (3).....4 MK DONS (1).....2

SUNDERLND (0).....2 FLEETWOOD (0).....0

Peterborough.....29 18 4 7 49 25 58

Lincoln City.....29 17 6 6 44 25 57

Hull.....31 16 5 10 49 28 53

Portsmouth.....29 15 6 8 46 27 51

Sunderland.....29 13 11 5 44 24 50

Doncaster.....27 15 4 8 46 34 49

Accrington.....28 13 7 8 39 30 46

Oxford Utd.....28 13 5 10 43 35 44

Charlton.....30 12 8 10 45 41 44

Ipswich.....28 13 5 10 31 27 44

Crewe.....30 12 7 11 39 37 43

Plymouth.....30 11 9 10 39 46 42

MK Dons.....30 11 8 11 44 40 41

Blackpool.....26 12 4 10 30 26 40

Gillingham.....30 12 4 14 38 41 40

Shrewsbury.....27 9 10 8 31 31 37

Weekend Football League

BRISTOL C (0).....0 BARNLEY (0).....1

CARDIFF (1).....4 PRESTON (0).....0

COVENTRY (1).....2 BRENTFORD (0).....0

HUDDERSFLD (1).....4 SWANSEA (1).....1

CAMBRIDGE (0).....0 CHELTENHAM (0).....1

CARLISLE (2).....2 TRANMERE (2).....3

COLCHESTER (0).....1 EXETER (1).....2

GRIMSBY (1).....2 CRAWLEY TN (1).....1

HARROGATE TN (0).....1 MANSFIELD (0).....0

MORECAMBE (0).....2 SALFORD CITY (1).....1

OLDHAM (0).....0 BARROW (0).....1

PORT VALE (0).....0 STEVENAGE (0).....0

Weekend Football League

BARROW (0).....1 MORECAMBE (1).....2

CHELTENHAM (0).....0 BRADFORD (1).....2

CRAWLEY TN (0).....1 COLCHESTER (0).....0

EXETER.....P GRIMSBY.....P

L ORIENT (0).....1 PORT VALE (0).....1

MANSFIELD (0).....0 CAMBRIDGE (0).....3

SALFORD (0).....1 CARLISLE (1).....1

SCUNTHORPE (2).....3 HARROGATE (1).....1

SOUTHEND (0).....0 BOLTON (0).....1

STEVENAGE (0).....1 WALSALL (1).....1

TRANMERE (1).....2 OLDHAM (1).....2

NEWPORT (0).....0 FOREST GRN (1).....2

# Auba late show puts Gunners through

## EUROPA LEAGUE: Arsenal edge past Benfica to secure last 16 berth

**Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored a dramatic late winner to help Arsenal edge past Benfica 3-2 (agg: 4-3) into the last 16 of the Europa League on Thursday.**

In a 'home' leg played at the Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus, Greece, because of Covid-19 restrictions, Aubameyang opened the scoring to give the Gunners a 2-1 aggregate lead.

Diogo Goncalves levelled for Benfica just before the break with a superb free-kick after Dani Ceballos had needlessly fouled Julian Weigl.

The Spanish midfielder compounded that error after the interval with a poor defensive header that saw Rafa Silva race clear to put the visitors in front.

With Arsenal needing two goals to advance because of the away goals rule, Kieran Tierney's low drive set up a grandstand finish before Aubameyang rescued the tie.

Shola Shoretire became the youngest player to appear for Manchester United in a European game as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side eased into the last-16 of the Europa League with

a goalless draw against Real Sociedad.

At 17 years and 23 days, Newcastle-born Shoretire beat the record of Norman Whiteside by 108 days on a night when January signing Amad Diallo also made his first appearance at Old Trafford.

They were notable milestones on an evening when Bruno Fernandes went closest for the hosts in the opening period as he smashed a lay-off from Fred onto the crossbar.

However, the best chance turned into a miserable failure for visitors' skipper Mikel Oyarzabal.

Presented with the opportunity to give his side an early lead from the penalty spot, Oyarzabal copied Fernandes' distinctive skip as he went to strike the ball and sent it so far wide it almost hit a photographer by the side of the goal.

Daniel James had a header saved by Alejandro Remiro before the break and Marcus Rashford, who took over the captain's armband when he replaced Fernandes at half-time, went close after it.

Axel Tuanzebe thought he had scored his first United goal when he

powered in Alex Telles' corner, only for the intervention of the video assistant referee to halt Tuanzebe's celebrations.

Referee Lawrence Visser was advised to watch the incident on a pitchside monitor and judged that Victor Lindelof had committed a foul before the ball reached his fellow centre-back.

It was all rather mundane, with the hosts' four-goal cushion from last week's game in Turin ensuring their place in Friday's draw - when Steven Gerrard and Jose Mourinho are potential opponents for Solskjaer - was never in doubt.

Their victory means there will be four British sides in the Europa League last 16, with Tottenham, Arsenal and Rangers all advancing.

With no seedings, and no restrictions on sides from the same nation facing each other, the draw could produce an all-Premier League clash.

The eight last-16 ties will be played on 11 and 18 March.

Brendan Rodgers said Leicester will "fight to be better next year" after his side were dumped out of the Europa League by Czech side Slavia Prague, who won



**At the double:** Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored twice on Thursday night

**1-0 at the King Power Stadium.**

With playmaker James Maddison missing with a hip injury and in-form winger Harvey Barnes left on the bench for the first hour, Rodgers' team were a shadow of the vibrant side pushing for Champions League qualification at the top of the Premier League.

Rodgers took responsibility for leaving

Barnes out and said a strong league finish and an FA Cup run are his main priorities.

"We have to learn from it," he said. "We can accept it a lot easier as we weren't good enough on the night and over the two legs.

"We'll get back in, move on and we've enjoyed the European experience and we want to fight this year and be better next year.

"If we had to prioritise, they (the Premier League and the FA Cup) were the two we would want to do well in. We wanted to do well in the Europa League, but now we can focus on the Premier League and FA Cup."

Jamie Vardy was kept quiet by efficient if limited opposition, and a spirited second-half showing from the visitors earned a shock win.

## Lennon quits as Celtic boss

**Celtic manager Neil Lennon has resigned with his side 18 points adrift of Rangers in the Scottish Premiership.**

Lennon took charge for a second spell in February 2019 when Brendan Rodgers left and led the club to two titles, two Scottish Cups and a League Cup.

However, Celtic are well behind their Glasgow rivals in their bid to win 10-straight titles and

slumped to defeat at struggling Ross County on Sunday.

Assistant manager John Kennedy will take interim charge of the team.

"We have experienced a difficult season due to so many factors and it is very frustrating and disappointing that we have not been able to hit the same heights as we did previously," Lennon said.

"I have worked as

hard as ever to try and turn things around, but unfortunately we have not managed to get the kind of run going that we have needed.

"I have always given my best to the club and have been proud to deliver silverware to the Celtic supporters. The club will always be part of me. I will always be a Celtic supporter myself and I will always want the best for Celtic."



Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac standby generator

SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!

888-706-1306

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*Terms & Conditions Apply

