



UK passes 10m Covid infections - page 2

# HORROR IN THE CHANNEL

- Pregnant woman and three children among 27 drowned as flimsy dinghy deflates
- Victims mostly Kurds from Iraq or Iran say authorities, as criminal investigation begins

At least one pregnant woman and three children were among the 27 people, mostly Kurds from Iraq or Iran, who drowned trying to cross the Channel in an inflatable boat on Tuesday, French authorities have said.

Two male survivors, an Iraqi and a Somali, are being treated for exhaustion and hypothermia in a Calais hospital. A criminal investigation has been opened by the public prosecutor in Lille, with four men suspected of "direct involvement" in the attempted crossing arrested on Wednesday and a fifth detained early on Thursday morning.

The bodies were brought into the port of Calais by boat and helicopter through the evening, where volunteers with local migrant aid associations lit candles and held aloft placards reading "How many more?" after what the International Organization for Migration described as the biggest single loss of life in the Channel since it began keeping records in 2014.

### 'mafia-like'

The public prosecutor's office in Lille has confirmed that 17 men, seven women and three adolescents – two boys and a girl – died in the

disaster. It said the lives of the survivors were not in danger.

The French interior minister, Gérald Darmanin, told RTL radio that the fifth suspect had been driving a car with German number plates and had "bought inflatable boats in Germany". He said 1,500 suspected people smugglers had been arrested in France since the beginning of the year.

"The main responsibility for this situation lies with the smugglers," Darmanin said, describing them as "mafia-like organisations in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Britain", adding: "France and Britain have to work together. We can no longer be the only countries to be fighting these smugglers."

Darmanin also renewed his criticism of Britain's refugee policies. "France expels about 20,000 illicit migrants a year," he said. "Britain manages 6,000 – about four times less than France, despite the fact that the UK gets about half as many illicit migrants.

The UK does not handle illicit migration well."

French media said the inflatable boat, carrying at least 29 people, was believed to have set off from Loon-Plage near Dunkirk and that they had most likely been camping out in the dunes near Grande-Synthe, the location of several migrant camps. The largest, home to about 1,500 people, was dismantled last week.

### alarm

Winds were light and the sea was calm at the time, prompting unconfirmed reports in several media including La Voix du Nord newspaper that the boat was either hit by a container ship in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes or had folded under the weight of its occupants, possibly after hitting the wake of a larger vessel.

The first alarm was sounded at about 2pm by a French fishing boat that spotted bodies in the water off the coast of Calais, with French sea rescue services arriving on the scene soon after.

"The boat was found

## Migrant boat disaster



mostly deflated but was still floating," Bernard Barron, the head of the Calais lifeboat service, told reporters. The people were recovered from the water, where the temperature was estimated to be 17C, he said.

The head of the Dunkirk lifeboat service, Alain Ledaguenel, said the disaster was predictable.

"It had to happen, and it happened," he said. "We know that the means available for sea rescue are inadequate."

French police said on Thursday morning they had come to the

assistance of 20 people on Wednesday night. "Their boat was overloaded and rapidly began taking in water, forcing its occupants to return to the beach," a tweet said. "Police officers immediately went to their assistance."

The French prime minister, Jean Castex, was holding a crisis meeting on Thursday with six cabinet colleagues including Darmanin, the justice minister, Éric Dupond-Moretti, the maritime affairs minister, Annick Girardin, the transport minister, Jean-Baptiste

Djebbari, and the foreign affairs minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian.

The Elysée palace said in a statement on Thursday that Emmanuel Macron had "informed Boris Johnson in a telephone call" that he "expected full cooperation from Britain and [to] stop instrumentalising a dramatic situation for political ends".

The French president "insisted on the need to act with dignity, and respecting the spirit of effective cooperation concerning human lives", the statement said.

## News From Britain

# Army cuts ahead under 'Future Soldier' programme

■ But new force will be leaner, better equipped and faster to respond, insists defence secretary

The British Army has announced its "Future Soldier" programme, claiming the project offers the most radical reform for the last two decades in order to shape a force fit to fight the wars of the 21st century.

The restructuring comes as the strength of the regular army is due to be reduced from 82,000 to 73,000 in the next four years, with focus on expeditionary units which can be deployed to conflict zones as well as setting up bases abroad.

The new strategy will be buttressed by an investment of £41.3bn over the next decade on equipment, £8.6bn more than had previously been pledged.

Part of the policy will be the establishment of a special operations brigade for missions abroad, unveiled eight months ago, as "Global Britain" seeks a broader military footprint with new and traditional allies outside Europe.

A Ranger regiment will form the core of the new force which will engage in combat, as well as carry out training, with the aim of signing a series of defence agreements

and being deployed to international hubs in Oman, Kenya, Poland and the Baltic states.

The defence secretary maintained that the army would be "leaner but more productive" adding "crucially, it will also be an army designed for genuine warfighting credibility as an expeditionary fighting force that will be both deployable and lethal when called upon to fight and win".

### 'more reliable'

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, said: "[It will] mean we have fewer soldiers. But it also means we will have honest armed forces that says what it does on the side of the tin rather than lots of people and equipment that is 20 years out of date, which is what we have had for too long."

Responding to critics of the reforms, including former commanders, Mr Wallace was in a combative mood. "Some of the former senior officers who throw bricks and mortars were delivering armies that were hollow," he said.

"I think we are now a more reliable, more ready partners to allies than

we have ever been. And I think that is something that brings value to the United Kingdom as offering to our allies around the world."

Mr Wallace held that current-day commanders were looking to the future and not the past.

Pointing to around 500 soldiers whose jobs had been reprieved, he said "I think it's quite telling that the army with 500 more personnel didn't just resurrect an infantry battalion which they could have done with 500. They chose to put those people in a range of capabilities such as cyber and other enablers because that is what is actually needed."

### 'thinly stretched'

However, as well as light and rapidly deployable forces like the Rangers, troops and armour will be deployed as tension mounts in the new cold war with Russia. Tanks and infantry fighting vehicles will be stationed in Germany, at the Nato forward holding base at Sennelager, as well as Estonia, where the UK currently leads, on rotation, a thousand-strong battle group.

The Labour Party



Under the new proposals, the strength of the regular army is to be reduced from 82,000 to 73,000 over the next four years

charged that the plans leave the fighting forces "too small, too thinly stretched, too poorly equipped".

defence secretary John Healey pointed out Ministry of Defence civilian staff numbers have risen 2,200 in the

last six years, while the numbers of full-time soldiers have been cut by 5,000 over the same period.

## UK passes grim Covid milestone

Total number of cases passes 10 million since start of pandemic



The number of COVID cases the UK has seen since the start of the pandemic has passed 10 million, official figures show.

According to government data, the number of people to have tested positive in the latest round of daily figures is 47,240.

Thursday's data also showed that another 147 people have died with COVID.

The figures also showed the cases reported between November 19 and November 25 were up by 9.5% compared with the

previous seven days.

A further 147 people were also reported as having died within 28 days of a positive test for COVID, meaning the seven-day total was down by 14.8% from the previous week.

Meanwhile, a total of 50,852,133 first doses of the COVID vaccine had been delivered in the UK by November 24, which was a rise of 24,579 on the previous day.

Around 46,232,258 second doses were also delivered, which was an increase of 23,439.

A total of 16,383,575 booster and third doses

were given out too, a day-on-day rise of 378,946.

The latest figures come as Europe struggles with its latest COVID wave.

On Thursday, the Czech government declared a state of emergency for 30 days due to a surge in cases, while Germany hit 100,000 COVID-related deaths.

In France, authorities announced that booster shots would be made available to everyone aged over 18, rather than just the over-65s and those with underlying health issues, in a bid to tackle the ongoing crisis.



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# Ava White: Liverpool murder arrests after girl stabbed to death

A 12-year-old girl has been stabbed to death during an argument in a city centre.

Ava White was with friends in Liverpool when she was assaulted at 20:40 GMT on Thursday, shortly after the city's Christmas lights switch-on.

Merseyside Police said she suffered "catastrophic injuries" and a weapon was yet to be found.

Four teenage boys, aged between 13 and 15 and from Toxteth, have been arrested on suspicion of her murder.

Police said officers found Ava collapsed on the ground on Church Alley and a member of the public, who had witnessed the incident, was giving her first aid.

Ava, who attended Notre Dame Catholic College in Everton, was taken to Alder Hey Children's Hospital with critical injuries but died a short time later.

"We know at the moment that Ava was with her friends in Liverpool city centre and there has been a verbal argument

which has escalated to an assault on her involving a knife," Det Supt Sue Coombs said.

"We are able to say there has been a verbal argument and there has been an assault, and the offenders ran off up School Lane, across Hanover Street and into Fleet Street."

Assistant Chief Constable Ngaire Waine said police were not looking for anyone else in connection with Ava's death.

"It's very sad for the city but it is even sadder for her family, their lives are never going to be the same," she said.

## 'much loved'

Paying tribute to Ava, her head teacher Peter Duffy said the Year Eight pupil was a "much loved, valued and unique member of the Notre Dame family".

"She was an incredibly popular girl with a fantastic group of friends," he said.

"My staff are working with students to provide

all the support they need at this traumatic time."

Rebecca Flynn, her head teacher at Trinity RC Primary School, said she was a "popular and caring" girl who was "bright and respectful".

Peace campaigner Colin Parry, whose son Tim was killed in the Warrington bomb in 1993, tweeted that Ava had been given a peace ambassador award by his charity in 2019 and her death was a "tragic loss".

Metro Mayor of Liverpool City Region, Steve Rotheram, said he was "horrified" by Ava's death.

"I am angry today for Ava and her family, for the parents across the region worrying about their children's safety and angry that such a heinous act should take place here," he tweeted.

Sarah Doyle, the assistant mayor of Liverpool, said she was "heartbroken" at the "extremely devastating" news.

"It's senseless and I know it will bring a lot

of fear to communities across the city," she said.

"I just want to send a message of reassurance that our city is a safe place but I know this will be giving a lot of anxiety to people. We all share in [her family's] unimaginable grief."

Posting on Twitter, Dame Rachel de Souza, children's commissioner for England, said: "This kind of violence involving a child and with such tragic consequences is shocking at any time, but when the victim is 12 it's particularly so."

Mary Katilius, 65, from Limerick, said she had been nearby with her granddaughter when Ava was attacked.

"We heard screams and someone said to call an ambulance. We rushed over straight away but there was already a man



AVA WHITE: 'catastrophic injuries'

helping her," she said.

Det Supt Coombs said a lot of the witnesses were young and would be given special treatment

when being interviewed.

Floral tributes have been left near the scene, (below) with one message saying: "Rest in peace angel."



## Premier League boss cautious as drumbeat for regulation grows louder

■ "We are the envy of the world, make no mistake."

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters says his organisation is "open" to the proposal for an independent regulator to take over key governing roles for football.

Masters' comments on Friday came after two clubs, Aston Villa and Crystal Palace, warned that the government's plans to regulate the game risk damaging the success of the English league.

Tracey Crouch MP published a report on Wednesday which called for parliament to back the creation of a new regulatory

body and made a series of recommendations including a 'transfer tax' to be paid to lower league clubs.

Crouch's panel spoke to fan groups and others in the game at various levels and backed the creation of a regulatory body to deal with the game's finances, club ownership and corporate governance.

The move would weaken the powers of the Premier League and other leagues and the Football Association to govern the game.

"We welcome the review. It's comprehensive, wide-

ranging, bold and radical in parts, and we accept that faith in football governance needs to be restored and the fans need a bigger say," Masters told the BBC.

"In parts it's radical, and it requires careful thought. So that's why we need to think carefully about some of the issues that might arise from a regulator but we're here supporting the principles of the independent regulator and the review."

Masters questioned some of the financial regulations proposed in the review but said he was **cont. on page 5, col. 1**



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## News from Britain

# Racism in cricket: ECB reveals 12-point plan to address the sport's ongoing scandal

**THE ECB published a 12-point, game-wide action plan on Friday to tackle racism and all forms of discrimination in the game, following Azeem Rafiq's testimony to MPs earlier this month about the abuse he suffered at Yorkshire.**

England and Wales Cricket chief executive Tom Harrison has not ruled out an independent regulator for cricket after admitting an "earthquake" had hit the sport in the last few weeks.

"The last few weeks have been very, very tough for cricket. It feels like an earthquake has hit us," Harrison said, referring to Azeem Rafiq's recent testimony about institutional racism within the English game.

"The most damning part of Azeem's testimony is that he didn't want his son to be part of the game. That is, for someone in my job, the most difficult thing you can hear."

Key points from cricket's diversity plan:

- Understanding and educating more - training for all those who work in cricket, including all staff, volunteers, recreational club officials, umpires, directors, and coaches

- Addressing dressing room culture - a full review of dressing room culture in all men's and women's professional teams, both domestic and international

- Removing barriers in talent pathways - through measures to address i) talent identification and scouting, ii) education and diversity of coaches and iii) targeted support programmes for players from diverse or under-privileged backgrounds

- Creating welcoming environments for all - including accessible seating, food and

beverage offering catering to all faiths and cultures, and the availability of facilities such as multi-faith rooms and alcohol-free zones

- Publishing localised Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans within six months - with targets for Board diversity (30% female, locally representative ethnicity by April 2022).

#### anti-discrimination unit

Described as "a critical moment for cricket" by ECB interim chair Barry O'Brien, England's governing body pledged £25m of strategic funding over five years to implement changes - some of which will be

"immediate" while others will be introduced as part of a "review period".

It will also form a new anti-discrimination unit, within six months, "to ensure that the ECB has the right resources and capabilities to help tackle discrimination".

One of the points in the action plan is a governance review of the ECB. In a week where a fan-led review recommended an independent regulator for football, Harrison said it was appropriate that the review should at least consider whether that was the best way forward for cricket too.

"We had a meeting yesterday with the county chairs... whether



**Damning testimony:** former Yorkshire cricketer Azeem Rafiq

we should be the regulator and the national governing body going forward," he said.

"That conversation is one we're going to have with the game as well.

"I think it's the right time for us now to go back as a collective again and work out whether we have got the right governance structures, given the pressures and

the uniquely different role that ECB plays now as a major sport, with the multiple hats that we have to wear, overseeing the game as we do.

"I think it's the right time for us now to go back as a collective again and work out whether we have got the right governance structures, given the pressures and the uniquely different

role that ECB plays now as a major sport, with the multiple hats that we have to wear, overseeing the game as we do.

"If a governance review comes back with a recommendation (that an independent regulator is appropriate) then you've got to have a very good reason not to go along with that recommendation."

## Michael Vaughan dropped from Ashes by BBC and may be removed by BT

**Michael Vaughan faces being completely excluded from Britain's radios and television screens during this winter's Ashes series because of his involvement in the ongoing investigation into racism at Yorkshire, after the BBC confirmed they had dropped the former England captain and BT Sport said they were looking into whether they could remove him from their commentary team.**

Vaughan was accused by Azeem Rafiq of making a racist comment before a Yorkshire game in 2009, and though he has strongly denied doing so two other players, Adil Rashid and Rana Naved-ul-Hasan,

have corroborated Rafiq's version of events.

"While he is involved in a significant story in cricket, for editorial reasons we do not believe that it would be appropriate for Michael Vaughan to have a role in our Ashes team or wider coverage of the sport at the moment," the BBC said in a statement. "We require our contributors to talk about relevant topics and his involvement in the Yorkshire story represents a conflict of interest."

#### commentary team

Earlier this month the BBC dropped Tuffers and Vaughan, the radio show Vaughan co-presents with Phil Tufnell, after

the 47-year-old used his Daily Telegraph column to admit that he had been accused by Rafiq. However BT Sport's task in removing him from their Ashes broadcasts is complicated by the fact that he is contracted to Australia's Fox network, whose commentary they had planned to use. They could now put together their own commentary team, or attempt to switch from Fox to the other Australian broadcaster covering the series, Channel 7.

"As a result of Covid and travel restrictions BT Sport had made the decision to take our commentary feed from the Australian host broadcaster," a BT Sport spokesman



**MICHAEL VAUGHAN:** the former England captain denies allegations of racist remark

said. "The recent report presented to UK Parliament uncovering institutional racism within cricket and specifically Yorkshire County Cricket Club is

extremely disappointing and a concern for all. Given these recent events we are reviewing and discussing our commentary plans with Cricket Australia."

# Football:

cont. from page 3

not opposing the idea of a regulator which has been backed by Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries.

"I think it's the key part of Tracey's recommendation and it's been backed by Government yesterday, so we've got to work and adapt to the recommendations going forward and so that's why we need to be careful," he said.

However, Masters believes football is capable of regulating itself.

"We liaised constantly with the panel, we tried to show that football authorities can work together, and I believe that we can be effective regulators," he said.

Masters' diplomatic approach struck a slightly different tone to two of his clubs.

"Unfortunately, I think these solutions are in grave danger of huge, unintended consequences that could make the game a lot worse in the long run," Crystal Palace chairman Steve Parish told BBC radio.

"We are the envy of the world, make no mistake. We emerged from the COVID crisis, the English game, as the most healthy game in the world, without a doubt. Everybody looks on us... across Europe particularly, somewhat comedically, thinking we are about to create a huge act of self harm," he added.

Among the recommendations in the report are a 'golden share' for club fans, giving them a veto over certain issues, and the creation of 'shadow boards' made up of supporters.

"I fear for the government somewhat. All football fans tend to

want different things," said Parish.

"There are a lot of sledgehammers to crack nuts in this report."

The cover of Crouch's report features a picture of Gigg Lane, home of North West club Bury who in 2019 were expelled from the Football League and went into administration.

But Parish said the fate of that club was very unusual.

"(In) 120 years, a tiny handful of businesses have gone into liquidation and I'm confident there will be another Bury Football Club, something that rises from the ashes."

Aston Villa CEO Christian Purslow was also critical of the proposal.

"The Premier League has always really been the source of funding for the rest of football and the danger here is, of course, killing the golden goose if we overregulate a highly successful financial and commercial operation."

# Stargazing with Annie Shaw



**ARIES:** It's a decent time currently for you overall now that your boss Mars is in Scorpio. Make your plans for the coming end of month and make them positive ones.

**TAURUS:** In retrospect you have achieved a lot since the beginning of last week. Well now you have enough time to rest up. Stop worrying about things that probably will never happen.

**GEMINI:** You have probably nothing outstanding now but to relax as you always have something you are involved with. Whatever seems to have passed by was not meant to be, accept it and move on.

**CANCER:** Look back on these past few weeks and see what you have achieved, however small. Now is your chance to plan ahead. This is due to the planets in Scorpio moving on and leaving positive space.

**LEO:** You are probably planning ahead and already know what you will and will not do going forward. This is good, however it's time to be grateful for what you do have, however small.

**VIRGO:** You usually have worries about something in life. However, you have taken this stressful time unusually well since so many things have changed and it's the best way for you. You can soon breathe a sigh of relief.

**LIBRA:** You could use some rest and relaxation so this is the time. It is not easy for you usually to fit all you want (or need) to do and even with the current environment you will still be busy. Now that your boss Venus is in your money area finances will ease up.

**SCORPIO:** Feeling unsettled is a sign of the current times we are in. You are at your most positive when you are helping others. Lay any past issues in relationships to rest. Might be time to set your plans for your new year.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Get your mindset cleaned out mentally in order to start your personal new year off with a great start. Make room for better things to come for you now your boss Jupiter is beaming positive light over you. Happy Birthday!

**CAPRICORN:** The trying times you have dealt with in recent months have lightened up and you are about to move on and enjoy your life. Especially for you folks who often put your needs to one side ahead of others.

**AQUARIUS:** We have fully entered into unknown territory now. However you of all the signs will find a way to make sense of it all. The powerful planet Jupiter is heading into your money and property area. This will energize life for sure.

**PISCES:** You are known to be sensitive, especially with your boss sign Neptune going backwards currently. The good news is that lucky Jupiter will soon be living with you for a year. Positive times ahead.

## The British Weekly Crossword by Myles Mellor. #519

**Across**

- Revere (7)
- Handicap walkways (5)
- Cabaret (9)
- Partner of "neither" (3)
- Spaghetti topping (5)
- In an overly formal way (7)
- Betwixt (6)
- Let (6)
- Inactivity (7)
- Evidence (5)
- T.G.I.F. part (3)
- Verboten (9)
- Yellow parts (5)
- Rhythm (7)

**Down**

- Sir Paul McCartney group (5)
- Snug bug's spot (3)
- Batters (7)
- Buff (6)
- Bar mitzvah figure (5)
- Declaration (9)
- Used an aerosol (7)
- Film studio name since 1912 (9)
- Aptitude (7)
- Drained (7)
- Taffeta or chiffon (6)
- Grassy clumps (5)
- Barrier (5)
- Mafia boss (3)

**Solution to Puzzle #518**

1	F	I	E	R	C	E	4	M	A	R	6	I	N	A	
2	L	N	E	3	E	M	M	L							
8	A	D	J	U	N	C	T	10	P	U	P	I	L		
9	T	O	T	H	L	O	O								
11	L	A	Y	E	R	12	O	V	E	R	S	A	W		
13	Y	A	S	E	S										
14	D	R	I	L	L	15	G	R	A	D	E				
17	O	E												16	U
18	S	Y	M	P	20	T	O	M	19	D	R	O	W	N	
21	C	A	A												
22	A	C	I	D	S	23	T	E	A	C	H	E	R		
24	R	N	T	S	N	E	U								
25	S	I	S	T	E	R	27	S	T	A	R	V	E		

## The British Weekly Sudoku by Myles Mellor #519

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

**Solution to Sudoku #518**

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





**Brits in LA**



# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

## Parades, theatre and ice rinks await as LA embraces the festive spirit

**First off I would like to wish you all a belated Happy Thanksgiving!**

It's always a strange one for us Brits - there is often confusion on our forums on how to acknowledge it. Should we embrace it? Ignore it? Or be apologizing? After 24 years of living here I am still not quite sure, and usually just follow the lead of the people that I have chosen to spend it with. On the surface it's a great opportunity to get together without the pressures that Christmas usually brings. No religious connotations or obligation to buy gifts, just a day giving thanks to all that we are grateful for - but I don't think a

year goes by without someone posting on our Brits in LA Facebook group all of the reasons why as Brits we shouldn't be celebrating Thanksgiving. It is quite hard to disagree when the arguments aren't wrong.

But this year an American friend of mine joined the conversation and defined what this holiday means to her.

"It's just a reason to get together with family and gather. You can choose to embrace the positive of love and family, or just concentrate on all the negatives and be miserable. I'll always choose any reason to embrace love and food.

It's also the #1 holiday where people love taking in any "strays" who don't have a family here to eat with."

This is definitely the way I've approached Thanksgiving and knowing that some of my American friends feels that way too actually makes me feel more American too!

Although, let's be honest - to us expats it's really just a prelude to Christmas. And Los Angeles is making up for lost time/lockdown 2020 and is going all out this year.

The Hollywood Christmas Parade returns after a one year hiatus and promises to be one to remember. For more info visit [www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.org](http://www.thehollywoodchristmasparade.org).

Live theatre is back too! You can enjoy that Yuletide staple, A Christmas Carol, at the Ahmanson in DTLA, or enjoy a more recent classic, Love Actually Live, at the The Wallis in Beverly Hills.

Want to feel chilly? Then get your skates on as rinks are popping up all over town. The LA Kings Holiday Ice rink (above, right) will be open November 27, 2021 through January 7, 2022. This brings ice skating to LA Live at the Xbox Plaza right out front of Staples Center.

Baseball season may be over the but Dodgers



Holiday Festival (Nov 26- December 31) promises lots of festive fun in the beautiful, newly-renovated Centerfield Plaza, the warning track, and both bullpens, with nightly entertainment, an ice skating rink, scenic and light displays, holiday-themed food and beverages

If you would rather get in the festive spirit by watching a Christmas movie you should check out Street Food Cinemas Holiday line up which includes classics such as Elf, The Santa Clause, Home Alone & Home Alone 2: Lost in New York and It's A Wonderful Life. The attraction also features festive food, Santa meet and greets, piano sing alongs and a tinsel tavern bar! Visit [streetfoodcinema.com](http://streetfoodcinema.com) for more details.

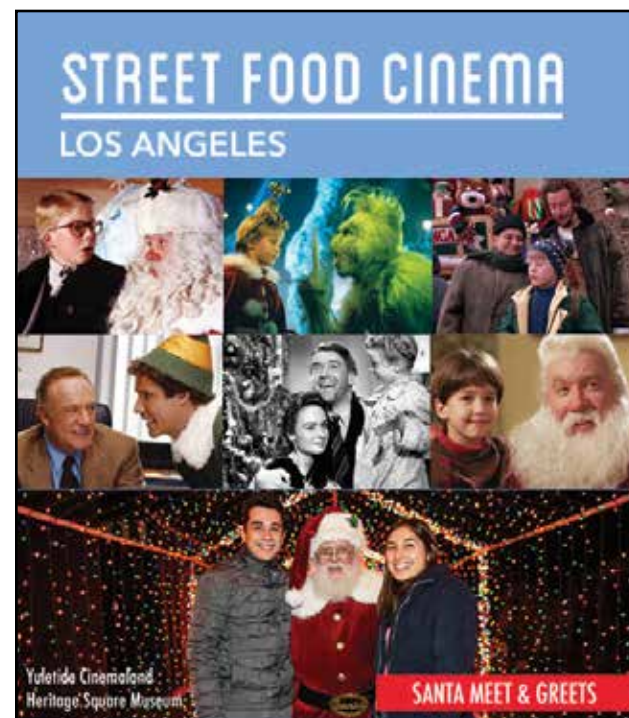
You can also visit [www.Britsin.com](http://www.Britsin.com)

la for more festive news including where to get the ingredients to make mince pies or cook Yorkshire puddings like your nan's. And don't forget if you are free on a Tuesday evening you are always welcome to join us at Sandro's Monetti's weekly Pub Quiz at the

Market Tavern, which doesn't need an official occasion to feel like a celebration.

Email us at [info@britsin.la](mailto:info@britsin.la) if you have questions or suggestions or want to share any events or news.

**Cheers!**  
**Eileen**



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# Meet A Member: Sharon Yates

Not all Brits in LA Members live in Los Angeles: in fact, a fair number are scattered around the globe.

This week's Meet a member is Sharon Yates who lives in Spain.

**Since you don't live in Los Angeles how did you end up joining Brits in LA?**

Well, I am Craig's (founder of Brits in LA) sister and have spent many years going back and forth to LA and meeting lots of the Brits in LA members, especially at the Breakfast Club, I fell in love with Bernard Skibben, Mayor of Breakfast Club, he is the best!

**What is your impression of LA?**

I love LA, it has a great vibe and there is always something to do. Angelenos are very positive, super friendly and helpful, I think it's because it is such a transient place - most people who are in LA are not from LA.

**Do you think you could ever see yourself moving to LA, if not tell us what keeps you in Spain?**

As I said I do love LA but where I live in Spain (Marbella) is very, very much like LA as in the environment, the weather, the mountains the Spanish language lol. It also has a lot of expats, it's a very international place to live, with great restaurants, beaches, mountains, and people. And best of all it's also only a couple of hours from my family in the



**A FAN FROM AFAR:** Sharon Yates

UK.

**Do you have a hidden gem or special place in the town where you live or where you are from that you want to share with us?**

Yes, Caminito del Rey in Andalusia ([www.caminitodelrey.info](http://www.caminitodelrey.info)). The name means the king's little path and it is a narrow walkway in the mountains originally built for workers at the hydroelectric power plants at Chorro Falls

and Gaitaneje falls. It was built early in the 20th century into a sheer cliff face to provide the transportation of materials, and to help facilitate inspection and maintenance of the channel. The walkway is just 3ft wide and rises over 330 feet above water. It was once considered one of the most dangerous routes in the world but these days it has been carefully restored. The views are unforgettable.



**WATCH YOUR STEP:** Sharon's hidden gem, the Caminito del Rey in Andalusia

**Why would you recommend other overseas/ out of town readers joining Brits in LA?**

Whenever I was there it was the go-to place to find out anything. Through Brits in LA I met some great people some of whom I am still very good friends with.

**We hear you have been**

**working on an exciting project. Care to tell us more about it?**

Yes, I am working for Holborn Assets with British Expats all over the world helping them with their wealth management, like their UK pensions, investments, properties and now because of Brexit I am helping many of them obtain a European Golden Visa.

This ensures that they don't lose any of the European rights and have the freedom live, work and to travel visa free to 27 different countries.

Lots of our members join our group Brits in LA seeking out words of wisdom - what is the best piece of advice you've been given?

Well nobody gave me this advice, it's something I read once and I just 100% believe it. "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it." - William Arthur Ward

Lastly, how can we find you on the Internet? Website: [holbornassets.com.es](http://holbornassets.com.es). email: [Sharon.yates@holbornassets.com](mailto:Sharon.yates@holbornassets.com)

**All of us at The British Connection would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas Holiday and have a prosperous and Happy New Year**



**Thank you for your support throughout the year!**

**Michael & Pamela**

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## BW SPORT

## Scotland to face Ukraine, Wales meet Austria

Scotland will host Ukraine in the play-off semi-final for the 2022 World Cup, while Wales have been drawn at home to Austria.

If Scotland and Wales win their matches, they will face each other in Cardiff in a final for a spot in Qatar.

Wales are bidding to reach their first World Cup in 64 years, while Scotland have waited 24 years to play in one.

That draw means either European champions Italy or Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal will not be at the World Cup, with the winners of their semis meeting in a final.

The semi-finals and finals will take place from 24-29 March.

# Rangnick in at Old Trafford

■ United name German coach interim boss until next summer

Manchester United have reached agreement with Lokomotiv Moscow for the Russian club's head of sports and development Ralf Rangnick to move to Old Trafford as interim manager.

The deal is not yet complete, as some contractual elements remain to be sorted out and there needs to be an application for a work permit.

However, it is now just a question of time before an official announcement that Rangnick will replace Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as manager for the remainder of the season.

The German, 63, will then stay on at the Old

Trafford club for an additional two years in a consultancy role.

Rangnick will not be in place in time for United's game against Chelsea on Sunday when Michael Carrick will again be in temporary charge but he could be in the dugout for Thursday's Premier League game at home to Arsenal.

Carrick took over the team after Solskjaer, who had been United manager since December 2018, was sacked following a 4-1 defeat by Watford on 20 November.

Carrick, Solskjaer's assistant, was in charge for the 2-0 win at Villarreal on Tuesday, a result that ensured they would finish top of



**RANGNICK:** another highly regarded German coach is coming to England

their Champions League group.

Rangnick set Ulm on course to promotion to the Bundesliga for the first time before spells in charge of Stuttgart,

Hannover, Hoffenheim, Schalke and RB Leipzig.

He won the German Cup with Schalke in 2011 and took RB Leipzig to the final in 2019.

During the 2010-11

season he led Schalke to the semi-finals of the Champions League, where they lost 6-1 on aggregate to United, who were then beaten by Barcelona in the final.

## Huge job ahead for Conte as Spurs embarrassed by Slovenian minnows

Tottenham manager Antonio Conte said the "situation is not simple" at the club after his much-changed side were embarrassed by NS Mura to leave their Europa Conference League last-16 hopes hanging by a thread.

The Italian opted not to talk to his players after Thursday's defeat in Slovenia, where Amadej Marosa's injury-time goal sealed the unlikely victory after Harry Kane looked to have salvaged a point for 10-man Spurs.

Kane chipped in after Tommy Horvat opened the scoring and Ryan Sessegnon's red card reduced woeful Spurs' numbers. But Marosa exposed some slack late defending by Davinson Sanchez to stun the Premier League team.

Former Tottenham midfielder Jermaine Jenas told BT Sport the defeat was "shocking and embarrassing",

while ex-Spurs manager Glenn Hoddle added the team's first-half performance was "dreadful".

"I did not like what happened tonight," said Conte. "I must be honest and tell you that after three-and-a-half weeks, I am starting to understand the situation.

"I am happy to stay here but at the same time I must be honest and tell you we need to work a lot to improve the quality of the squad. We are Tottenham and in this moment there is an important gap [to the top teams in England].

"If someone thinks that a new coach arrives and Conte won in the past and then I am a magician... But the only magic I can do is to work. To bring work and work to improve, to bring my methods, my ideas of football. But we have to understand that we need time.

"It is not simple because, in this moment for sure, the level of Tottenham is not so high.

"The situation now is starting to be very clear in my mind. I like to win and I play to win in every competition. This must be the same for my players.

"This road could be one metre or 100m. I am not scared, I am ready to go and do this path. But at the same time I want to be very honest - we have to work a lot and improve in many, many aspects.

"The club is outstanding outside - to create a stadium - but now we start from behind. I have found players that want to work and have great commitment, but sometimes it is not enough.

"We need time, but we have to do better in everything, everything, everything."

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