



Issue 171 October 24-November 7, 2025



CLOCK THAT!

Remember the clocks go back an hour at 2am on Sunday, marking the end of British Summer Time and a return to Greenwich Mean Time and darkness arriving earlier in the evenings

1,015 miles, 3 mountains, 10 days

Epic cycling and climbing challenge raises funds for lifeboat organisation

A lifeboat volunteer and his friend have completed an epic fundraising marathon.

Dan Sinclair, who helms the lifeboat based at Walmer in Kent, and friend Nathan Siddans took on the marathon challenge to raise money for the RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution).

They cycled 1,015 miles from John O'Groats on the north coast of the Scottish mainland to Land's End at the most westerly tip of Cornwall.

Along the way they took detours to climb Ben Nevis (4,413ft), Scafell Pike (3,209ft) and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon, 3,560ft), the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales respectively. That meant an extra 22 miles of climbing.

Dan and Nathan had no support



vehicle to help which meant they had to carry all their kit aboard their bikes during the 10-day marathon.

Enduring wind, rain, sunshine, punctures and long nights with little sleep, they were spurred on by messages of support from family, friends and supporters who were able

to follow their progress via a tracker.

At the finish they were greeted by a group of supporters including some Walmer lifeboat volunteers who had travelled to Cornwall to meet them.

Dan said: "We've been blown away by all the support throughout the trip. The comments helped us through some demanding and exhausting days. Every donation helps the RNLI keep saving lives and that's what this is all about."

It cost almost £120million to run the RNLI last year but the charity receives almost no money from the government. Instead, almost 90 per cent of its income comes from voluntary donations.

Dan and Nathan hoped to raise £2,000 in sponsorship money but have so far brought in around £14,000.

Picture: RNLI/Christopher Winstade

HALLOWEEN

October 31 see page 2



BONFIRE NIGHT

November 5 see page 3



This edition of The News Shed covers two weeks while we take a break for half-term. We're back on November 7.

HALLOWEEN ♦ OCTOBER 31



STAY SAFE

Ghosts and ghouls, pumpkins and parties – children around Britain are getting ready for fun and games at Halloween on October 31.

Dressing up, playing games and trick-or-treating can be great fun – but it is also important for children to stay safe.

Young children should always be accompanied by a parent or older relative and only knock at doors of people they know – and children should never go inside a stranger's house.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has given the following advice:

- ♦ Halloween costumes can often be made of materials which can catch fire, so be sure to keep well away from candles;
- ♦ It is likely to be dusk or dark when you are out – the clocks go back this weekend – so wear reflective clothing to make sure you can be seen;
- ♦ Carry a torch so you can see clearly and you can be seen by others;
- ♦ Halloween masks can often restrict vision and hearing, so be extra careful crossing roads.



The autumn spook-tacular!

How Halloween is celebrated around the world

IRELAND

The tradition of celebrating Halloween is said to have started in Ireland, originating from the ancient festival of Samhain, which marked the beginning of winter, more than 2,000 years ago.

A traditional food eaten at Halloween in Ireland is a type of fruitcake called barnbrack. A treat is baked inside the cake that is said to tell the future for whoever eats the cake. Some children still play the Halloween prank 'knock-a-dolly' – knocking on neighbours' doors and running away.

UNITED STATES

Huge numbers of people have emigrated from Ireland to the United States and taken the Halloween tradition with them.

That is where pumpkin carving began and 'knock-a-dolly' evolved into trick-or-treat.

MEXICO

As in many Latin American countries, Halloween is just the start of a festival known as the Day of the Dead on November 1 and 2 when people honour their ancestors.

A basin of water is left out so the spirits of their ancestors can wash

Where does the name Halloween come from?

- ♦ November 1 is All Saints Day, also known as All Hallows Day.
- ♦ That makes October 31 All Hallows Eve.
- ♦ That used to be known as All Hallows Even which was eventually shortened to Halloween, sometimes shown as Hallowe'en to denote the missing letter 'v'.

before joining the feast and relatives' graves are tidied up and decorated.

ITALY

November 1 is also a day to remember relatives in Italy, and is marked in different ways. It is known as Ognissanti, Italian for all saints.

In Sicily, children get presents which are said to have come from their ancestors, while in Rome people eat a meal near the graves of loved ones.

GUATEMALA

The festival is known as Barriletes Gigantes, meaning 'giant kites' and that is just what they use, flying large coloured kites over cemeteries.

The kites are thought to represent a bridge between the living and the dead.

NEWS IN BRIEF

♦ Thousands of websites and apps went down this week when a major web provider hit trouble.

The problem happened at Amazon Web Services which hosts the sites.

Gaming site Roblox, messaging platform Snapchat and the websites of several major banks were affected.

Amazon did not reveal the nature of the problem but were able to fix the glitch within 24 hours.

♦ A 76-year-old grandfather survived being lost in the remote Scottish highlands for eight days.

Ian Currie had planned to take two days to complete a 30-mile trek from Glenfinnan to Knoydart when he got lost in bad weather.

Mountain rescue teams were out searching for him but Mr Currie was eventually found by a group of deer stalkers.

♦ France has been shocked by the theft of priceless jewels from the world-famous Louvre museum in Paris.

Thieves climbed a ladder in broad daylight and smashed a first-floor window before taking the jewels which once belonged to French queens and empresses.

There are now fears the eight tiaras and necklaces will be broken up and the jewels sold individually.

BONFIRE NIGHT ♦ NOVEMBER 5



How the Gunpowder Plot unfolded – and failed

Bonfire Night every November 5 remembers the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot on that date in 1605.

A religious dispute was at the heart of the plot. Catholics had been persecuted for many years and a group of extremists wanted to remove King James I of England and VI of Scotland and return the country to a Catholic monarchy.

The plotters were led by Robert Caseby but it was Guy Fawkes who became the most famous of the gang.

It was Fawkes who was chosen to detonate 36 barrels of gunpowder hidden in a cellar beneath the House of Lords, where the king was to conduct the state opening of Parliament.

After an anonymous tip-off, officials discovered Fawkes and the gunpowder, and the plot was foiled.

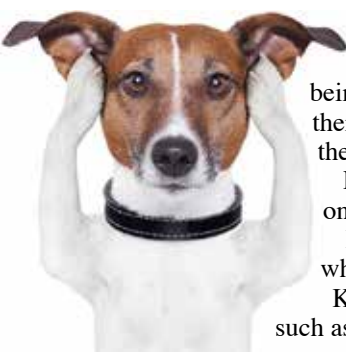
Many of the conspirators fled but they were eventually rounded up and, like Fawkes, were found guilty and executed.



Fun for us – but it can be a ‘woof’ night for dogs

Firework displays can be great fun for children and families – but they can be a lot less fun for our pets who can be terrified by the unexpected loud explosions.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has plenty of advice to help keep pets calm.



It includes creating a ‘safe haven’ for dogs where they can be quiet or play. Train them to associate the quietest room in your home with being safe and enjoyable by placing toys and treats there. Keep windows and curtains closed to deaden the sound from fireworks.

Playing relaxing music or switching the television on can also help keep an animal calm.

Remember to walk your dog during daylight, not when fireworks are likely to be set off at night.

Keep cats indoors and give them a hiding place such as under furniture.

STAY SAFE

FIREWORKS

- ♦ Children should stand well clear and let adults light fireworks;
- ♦ Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time;
- ♦ Read and follow the instructions;
- ♦ Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back;
- ♦ Keep naked flames well away from fireworks;
- ♦ Never return to a firework once it has been lit;
- ♦ Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them;
- ♦ Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.

BONFIRES

- ♦ If you are having a bonfire at home, discuss it with neighbours beforehand;
- ♦ Build the bonfire well away from sheds, fences and trees;
- ♦ Check there are no cables, such as telephone wires, above the bonfire;
- ♦ Make a suitable barrier around the bonfire to keep spectators away. Children should stand clear;
- ♦ Always check that no animals are hiding in the bonfire before lighting – it is the time of year when hedgehogs look for a hidden place to hibernate;
- ♦ Keep some buckets of water nearby in case of an emergency and to damp down after the event.

SPARKLERS

- ♦ These are often seen as safer for children but they burn at fierce temperatures and can easily cause injuries;
- ♦ Light sparklers one at a time;
- ♦ Children should always be supervised with sparklers by adults and they should never be given to children aged under five;
- ♦ Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves;
- ♦ Hold sparklers at arm's length while being lit;
- ♦ Don't wave sparklers about close to other people;
- ♦ When you have finished with the sparkler put it in a bucket of cold water.

With thanks to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents



WORD IN THE NEWS

SUMO

The Royal Albert Hall concert venue in London was this week returning to a familiar programme of classical and popular music after hosting a five-day festival of sumo wrestling.

A hugely popular sport in Japan, sumo sees massive wrestlers – often as heavy as 25 stone – trying to push each other out of a circular ring. The London event was won by Hoshoryu who beat Onosato in the deciding bout. Among his prizes were a gigantic bottle of soy sauce and a huge Hello Kitty teddy bear!

The word 'sumo' is Japanese for 'rushing at each other' and is often used to mean simply 'to compete'.



A-Z OF COUNTRIES No.8: HUNGARY

◆ A landlocked country in central Europe, Hungary is home to 9.5 million people.

◆ The country is bisected by the Danube, a river which flows from Germany and across Europe to the Black Sea. At 1,770 miles (2,850km), it is the second longest river in Europe after the Volga in Russia.

◆ Hungary's capital, Budapest, is also bisected by the Danube, with the spectacular parliament building (pictured) sitting on its east bank. Budapest was once three separate towns named Buda,



Obuda (old Buda) and Pest until they were unified in 1873. The area west of the Danube is still known as Buda, with Pest to the east.

◆ In the mid-20th century, Hungary boasted one of the world's great football teams, featuring the likes of Ferenc

Puskas, Nandor Hidegkuti and Sandor Kocsis – but they never won a World Cup, losing in the 1938 and 1954 finals.

◆ In 1953, Hungary stunned England by winning 6-3 at Wembley, the hosts' first home defeat after 90 years of international football. A year later Hungary won at home to England, this time 7-1.

◆ Hungary made a major contribution to classical music in the 19th century through composers Franz Liszt and Bela Bartok.



QUIZ TIME TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

SOUTH AMERICA

- 1 What are the continent's only two landlocked countries?
- 2 Name the mountain range which runs down the east coast of South America.
- 3 Of which country is Montevideo the capital city?

ANIMALS

- 1 What type of animal is a Komodo dragon?
- 2 Apart from elephants, what is the world's heaviest land animal?
- 3 What name is given the wild dogs found in Australia?

SPORT

- 1 What sport is played by the Los Angeles Lakers?
- 2 Who did Harry Kane overtake as the England men's football team's record goalscorer?
- 3 What sport is played at Stade Roland Garros in Paris?

ANSWERS

- SOUTH AMERICA**
1. Bolivia & Paraguay
2. Andes
3. Uruguay
- ANIMALS**
1. Lizard
2. Rhinoceros
3. Dingo
- SPORT**
1. Basketball
2. Wayne Rooney
3. Tennis



NUMBER IN THE NEWS



Seven people have died in Japan this year after being attacked by bears. It is the highest number of fatalities in a single year, passing the five who died there last year. More than a 100 people have been injured in other attacks.

Japan is home to both black bears and the larger brown bears, mostly in the mountainous north of the country.

Experts believe the bears are increasingly moving into residential areas in search of food because climate change has reduced the amount of beech nuts available for them to eat.

HISTORY WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 26, 1985



Uluru/Ayers Rock, standing in the central Australian desert, is the biggest rock in the world.

It is officially described as a monolith, meaning it is basically one very, very big piece of stone, standing 2,831ft (863m) high.

The huge sandstone rock is a world heritage site and popular tourist destination despite its remote location – but it is much more than that to local people.

The name is a clue to its place in Australian culture. Explorer William Gosse named it Ayers Rock in honour of Australian politician Henry Ayers.

But to the Pitjantjatjara people, a group of First Nations peoples who have lived in the area for centuries, it has always been known as Uluru – and it has a sacred place in their culture.

For that reason, the local people were unhappy that tourists would climb Uluru and, in some instances, did not even want it photographed either.

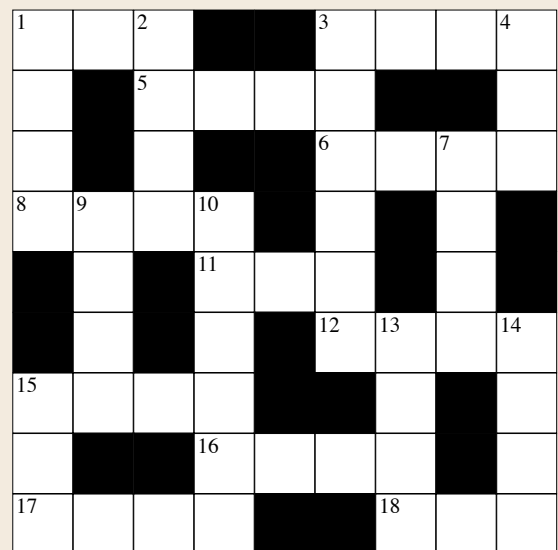
First Nations peoples have been very poorly treated, historically. And while attempts have been made to change this, and improvements made, they continue to face discrimination, prejudice and disadvantages when it comes to healthcare, education and housing.

In 1993, the rock's official name was changed to Ayers Rock/Uluru and in 2002 that was switched to Uluru/Ayers Rock.

But perhaps the most significant change in the rock's history came on October 26, 1985, when the Australian government handed the actual ownership of Uluru to the Pitjantjatjara people.

Maintenance and tourism management is now jointly organised by the government and the Pitjantjatjara.

CROSSWORD TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



ACROSS

- 1 & 3 down** Tiny country entirely within Italy (3,6)
3 West African country, capital Bamako (4)
5 Killer whale (4)
6 Travel on a bicycle or horse (4)
8 Charles III (4)
11 Large vessel (for tea, for example) (3)
12 Cooker (4)
15 County in the extreme south-east of England (4)
16 Way out (4)
17 Close by (4)
18 Porridge ingredient (3)

DOWN

- 1** Where the washing up is done (4)
2 Midday (4)
3 see 1 across
4 Frozen water (3)
7 Bird symbolising peace (4)
9 Lazy (4)
10 Channel at the edge of a roof or road (6)
13 Reject a decision; anagram of vote (4)
14 Bird's home (4)
15 Barbie's friend (3)

ABOUT US

◆ *The News Shed* is a digital news magazine, produced weekly in term-time to inform, entertain and educate pupils and to provide resources for their teachers.

◆ It is among a whole host of educational resources at: **www.literacyshedplus.com**

◆ For contact details please see the website.



Your teacher can find the solutions at www.literacyshedplus.com



◆ Yorkshire brothers Alistair and Jonny Brownlee were dominant figures in the gruelling sport of triathlon, featuring a 1.5km swim, 40km cycle ride and 10km run.

Older brother Alistair won Olympic gold in 2012 and 2016 with Jonny behind him in bronze and then silver medal positions.

Alistair is also a double world champion while Jonny won one senior world title and six team, sprint or under-23 events.

The fourth and final part of our series on sporting siblings looks at triathlon and overseas cricket



AUSTRALIA

Ian and Greg Chappell dominated Australian cricket for a dozen years, Ian captaining the team from 1971 to 1975 and brother Greg following him as skipper from 1975 to 1983.

A third brother, **Trevor**, also played in three Tests but is best remembered for one of the most controversial moments in international cricket.

In a one-day match in 1981, New Zealand needed to score a six off the last ball to win the match.

Trevor Chappell was bowling so brother Greg instructed him to bowl underarm and roll the ball along the ground so a six was impossible.

Batsman Brian McKechnie threw his bat to the ground in disgust at what was seen as an unsporting action

Chappells: the great and not so good

and underarm bowling was soon banned from international cricket.

Steve Waugh led the Aussies from 1998 to 2004 and alongside him in the national team throughout that time was his twin brother **Mark**, the younger by a few minutes.

Richie Benaud is revered as one of cricket's greatest television

commentators but was also an outstanding Australia captain from 1958 to 1964.

His brother **John** was a leading journalist in Australia and also played in three Test matches for his country.

PAKISTAN

Hanif Mohammad was one of the greats of Pakistan cricket with nearly 4,000 Test runs in 55 matches – and one of four brothers to represent their country.

Wazir, Mushtaq and Sadiq also played Test cricket and a fifth brother, **Raees**, was once 12th man for the national team.

Hanif, Mushtaq and Sadiq were all in the same team for one match, against New Zealand in 1969.

Can England finally loosen Aussies' grip?

England will be aiming to end years of Australian dominance when the three-match rugby league Ashes series begins at Wembley tomorrow.

Past series have been contested by a Great Britain team, rather than England, and recent history has seen nothing but Australian success.

They have won every one of the last 13 series with Great Britain's last victory coming in 1970.

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

- ◆ Oct 25 Wembley 2.30pm
- ◆ Nov 1 Everton FC 2.30pm
- ◆ Nov 8 Headingley, Leeds 2.30pm

All matches on BBC One

This will be the first Ashes series for 22 years with international rugby league having taken a back seat to the annual State of Origin series between Queensland and New South Wales.

The two countries did meet in the 2017 Rugby League World Cup final, won 6-0 by the Aussies.

Among four debutants in the Australian team at Wembley is Sydney Roosters wing Mark Nawaqanitawase. He was the leading scorer in domestic rugby this year having switched to league from rugby union after playing for Australia in the 2023 World Cup.