

TODAY'S WEATHER

TODAY: It will be bright with spells of sunshine. However scattered showers will develop and will spread eastwards during the day. Some of these will be locally heavy and wintry across the north. A threat of gales.

OUTLOOK: A mixture of spells of sunshine and scattered showers tomorrow which will be most frequent in the north and west. Similar conditions on Saturday with further showers.

FRI
SAT
SUN

AIR QUALITY	Air pollution levels Low (1) Very high (10)	uk-air.defra.gov.uk
Highlands	3	3
North East Scotland	3	3
Central Scotland	3	3
Scottish Borders	3	3
Northern Ireland	3	3
North West & Mersey	3	2
North East	3	3
Yorkshire & Humber	2	3
North Wales	3	3
West Midlands	3	3
East Midlands	3	2
South Wales	3	3
South West	3	3
South East	2	3
Eastern	3	3
Greater London	3	3

CORRECTIONS & COMPLAINTS

ipso. Regulated

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THE HEALTH LOTTERY

The society raising money in March through The Health Lottery is Health Lottery North East & Cumbria, tackling inequalities across the region. In April it is Health Lottery Yorkshire & Humber

E1 Health Lottery numbers Wednesday, March 10	08 11 35 38 43	34
E1 Health Lottery numbers Tuesday, March 9	03 14 27 33 35	18
E1 Health Lottery numbers Saturday, March 6	04 09 29 39 40	18
E1 Health Lottery numbers Friday, March 5	06 15 17 29 38	49
E1 Health Lottery numbers Thursday, March 4	07 27 32 38 46	05

2ND CHANCE DRAW, March 6: 01, 02, 05, 09, 38

NATIONAL LOTTERY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

No jackpot winner. Saturday's big prize is £4.2million.

LOTTO 01 05 09 21 26 42 17
EURO 01 16 21 32 33 11 12

MILLIONAIRE MAKER: JHQW77383

SET FOR LIFE: MONDAY, MARCH 8: 02, 16, 28, 32, 45. LIFE BALL: 10
THUNDERBALL: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10: 10, 12, 15, 28, 30. T'BALL: 10

Crossing is target of gangs

FOREIGN crime gangs have switched to cross-Channel people smuggling because it is so profitable.

Miles Bonfield, of the National Crime Agency, said Kurdish and Western Balkans gangs were trafficking migrants in small boats.

For the £3,000 price of a boat an Afghan gang, based in Paris, made £37,500 per trip by charging each of the 15 migrants up to £2,500 to cross the Channel.

Mr Bonfield said: "It does make it a very, very profitable route."

The Home Office said a record 8,438 migrants crossed the Channel in 635 boats in 2020.

Yoghurt ranges recalled

YOGHURTS are being recalled over fears they contain bits of metal.

Danone has stopped selling three of its ranges at Tesco, Morrisons, Asda, Sainsbury's, Ocado and Waitrose.

The firm's 115g peach passion fruit tubs with a use by date of March 31, 120g Activia 0% Fat pots and 110g Intensely Cream four-pack product, both of which expire on April 2, have reportedly been affected.

The issue is being blamed on a problem with a third-party supplier.

Anyone with an affected batch should return them to their shop for a refund.

Sugar's cut but pop top

THE sugar tax has hit a sweet spot by cutting soft drink sugar consumption without affecting sales revenue.

A new study showed the volume of drinks purchased did not change, but the sugar content in these drinks decreased by around 30g per household per week or almost 10%.

That is equivalent to three fewer teaspoons of sugar per person per week.

Dr Jean Adams from the University of Cambridge said the tax had avoided "any commensurate harm to the soft drinks industry" all the while benefiting public health.

Big bug bargain

BRITAIN'S last Edwardian flea circus is going up for auction. Prof Len Tomlin's Flea Circus was last used over 50 years ago. It featured tiny bugs pulling chariots, balancing on high wires and riding on trapeze. Auctioneers in Essex hope that the trinkets will sell for more than £2,000 next month.

GET SET FOR TAX DOUBLE WHAMMY

Council bills up as services cut



BRITS face rocketing council tax bills and poorer services due to Covid.

Town hall chiefs have taken a £9.7billion hit during the pandemic - £6.9bn in additional costs and £2.8bn through lost income.

Families could now be clobbered with 5% council tax rises.

The National Audit Office said councils' coffers remain a "cause for concern". NAO head Gareth Davies said: "Authorities' finances have been scarred and won't simply bounce back quickly."

"Government needs to address the long-standing need for finan-

cial reform." The Government has announced a £9.1bn cash injection for town halls, but that still leaves a gap of £605million with 30% reporting a cash crisis.

Meg Hillier MP said: "Central government support has provided an important lifeline to keep local authorities' heads above water. "Local authorities were already overstretched and now, with reserves depleted, many will have to slash service budgets to balance their books."

The Star Says: Page 6

FEARS: Meg Hillier