



Child poverty in the UK rises

Child poverty in the UK has risen since 2012 according to a Government report released on 10 June. Poverty means that a family is not earning enough money to pay for things like food or clothing. There are now more than four million children in poverty in the UK and the number is expected to rise to 5.2 million by 2022. Children from black and minority ethnic groups are nearly twice as likely to be in poverty as children in white British families.



A flypast marked the occasion.

London given French award

On 18 June, president of France Emmanuel Macron awarded London the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest award. It was to mark the 80th anniversary of a famous speech given by a former French leader, Charles de Gaulle. De Gaulle escaped from France to London in 1940, shortly after the Germans had invaded his country during the Second World War (1939–1945). From a BBC radio studio in London, De Gaulle encouraged the French to keep fighting.



The cardboard cut-out of Cilla.

Cardboard dog goes viral

A dog called Cilla has gone viral after a cardboard cut-out of her was shown on TV during a football match between Colchester United and Exeter City. No fans are allowed into stadiums because of coronavirus, but some clubs have put up cardboard cut-outs of pictures sent in by fans. The Priest family, who own Cilla, say they were surprised to see her picture on TV and even more surprised at the number of messages they received afterwards.



DID YOU KNOW?
More than 800,000 people visit Stonehenge every year.

The ancient circle of Stonehenge.

Massive monument is found near Stonehenge

Archaeologists (experts who study ancient man-made objects to help us understand history) have discovered a circle of large man-made holes around a site near Stonehenge. The circle is thought to be the largest prehistoric monument ever found in Britain.

Stonehenge is a ring of giant stones in Wiltshire, England. It was constructed around 4,500 years ago. To this day, people have different theories about how it was built and what it was used for.

About two miles away from Stonehenge, a circle of large round holes have been found in the ground. They surround Durrington Walls, which is an ancient settlement where the people who built Stonehenge lived. Although only 20 of the holes have been found, researchers think that there may have been more than 30 in total. Each hole is more than 10 metres in diameter and about five metres deep. They form a circle that is 1.2 miles across. Professor Vince Gaffney,

who was involved in the project, says that nothing of this size has ever been seen before in the UK. He adds that the size of the holes is particularly impressive, given that they would have been dug by people using bones, stones and pieces of wood.

The discovery was made by a team of researchers

from universities in England, Scotland and Wales. At first, they thought that the holes – which had mostly filled in over the centuries – had happened naturally. However, using technology that can scan beneath the ground, the team found that they must have been made by people.

By plotting these holes on a map, they saw a pattern

emerge. Tests on animal bones found at the bottom of the holes revealed that they were dug around the same time as Stonehenge was built, 4,500 years ago.

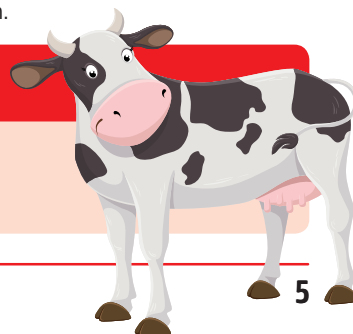
Experts have suggested that the holes may have formed a boundary, to protect some kind of sacred area. This discovery has deepened the mystery surrounding Stonehenge and suggests that there is still lots to learn.



The circle of uncovered holes.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Cows take over beer garden at closed restaurant and hotel" *upi.com*



Massive monument is found near Stonehenge

Once you have read the article, try any of the following activities...



Hold a debate

Stonehenge is an amazing monument. But what about this new discovery. It's a series of big holes found by archeologists from a number of universities. How much did that cost? Surely, there are better things to spend money on. It's not as if there's even anything to look at, as the holes have all been filled in. Or is it important that we try to find out as much as we can about our past? After all, a discovery like this could lead to even more important finds later on, so isn't it well worth the time, money and effort. What do you think?

Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

1 Write a persuasive text, such as a promotional leaflet, encouraging people to visit this new find. Remember to use powerful descriptions to make it sound as impressive as possible.

or

2 Write an imagined conversation between two of the people who dug the holes that formed this monument. You can make it as serious (for it might have been part of a religious ceremony) or funny as you like. Make sure you use all your speech punctuation, including starting a new line each time there is a change of speaker.

Investigate

There have been a number of theories about the original purpose of Stonehenge. Research and summarise them, saying which one seems the most likely to you and why.