



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Chequers estate was donated to the country in 1917 by Sir Arthur Lee, for the use of the UK Prime Minister.



Boris Johnson

## Volunteers help out



Volunteers across the UK have set up "scrub hubs" to sew new scrubs for NHS workers. Scrubs are protective clothes worn by doctors and nurses when they treat patients. Some people have added thank-you messages to the labels. Jayne Maxwell, from Rotherham, England, leads a group of volunteers who sew up to 30 sets a week.

# Prime Minister thanks NHS staff after he is released from hospital

On 12 April, the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was discharged from St Thomas's Hospital in London, where he was treated after becoming very unwell with Covid-19 (a disease caused by a new type of coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2). Symptoms include a fever, cough and breathing difficulties.

### What did Johnson say?

After leaving hospital, Johnson recorded a video message thanking the NHS (National Health Service) staff who looked after him. He thanked two nurses in particular, Jenny McGee from New Zealand and Luis Pitarma from Portugal. Johnson said that every day, across the UK, "there are hundreds of thousands of NHS staff who are acting with the same care

and thought and precision as Jenny and Luis". He is now staying at Chequers, the UK Prime Minister's official country home in Buckinghamshire, England, to continue his recovery. The Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, has taken over some of Johnson's responsibilities.

### What else happened this week?

The Government was criticised for not providing enough personal protective equipment (PPE) to NHS workers. PPE includes gloves, masks and other pieces of clothing that people should wear if they are looking after someone with Covid-19. Government guidelines say anyone working within two metres of a confirmed, or suspected, Covid-19 patient should

wear an apron, gloves, a surgical mask and eye protection. This is to stop them catching the disease. The Government says it has sent out 761 million pieces of PPE, but the British Medical Association says supplies are low. Most items can only be used once.

### What is being done to help?

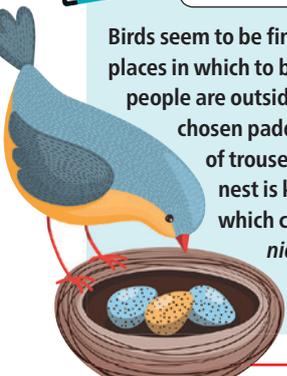
The Government has said it will increase deliveries of PPE, so that new equipment arrives daily. British companies, including the clothing brand Burberry and car manufacturers Rolls-Royce and McLaren, have been asked to start making PPE. The Mercedes Formula One team has been working with engineers from University College London to create a brand-new breathing device, to help patients with Covid-19.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### NIDIFICATE

Birds seem to be finding all sorts of strange places in which to build their nests, now that people are outside less often. Some have chosen paddling pools and even a pair of trousers. The act of making a nest is known as "nidificating", which comes from the Latin word *nidus*, "nest". Humans can nidificate too, by making a cosy place to nestle.



## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### 21 April 1934

#### Loch Ness Monster photo printed in paper

On 21 April 1934, the *The Daily Mail* newspaper printed a photo of the Loch Ness Monster. The photo was taken by a surgeon called Robert Wilson. However, the photo was later revealed to be a trick, carried out by Marmaduke Wetherell and Chris Spurling. They used a toy submarine and a fake head to create the monster. Spurling said that Wetherell wanted to get back at *The Daily Mail*. The paper had previously mocked him for sending fake photos of hippo prints, which he said belonged to the monster.



The famous photo.

# Prime Minister thanks NHS staff after he is released from hospital

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



## Investigate

What do you have to do to become a doctor in one of our hospitals? Find out what qualifications you need and how long it takes. Challenge: can you also find out the best subjects to take and what grades you probably need to get if you want to get into medical school?

## Writing challenge!

Choose one of the following writing warm-ups.

**1** Write a recount of the last time you went to a hospital or even to see your doctor. Describe your whole experience, including what the people who treated you were like. Remember to finish by giving your overall impression of your visit.

or

**2** Write an open letter to all the doctors and nurses who are helping poorly people around our country, especially those who are infected with the virus. Let them know your feelings about their work and perhaps give them some encouragement to help them keep doing what they do.

## Hold a debate with your family

The Prime Minister's recovery from COVID-19 was a genuine good news story. On leaving hospital, however, he seemed to express some surprise at the dedication of the intensive care nurses. Perhaps top politicians should be made to spend significant time in front-line public services such as health, social care and education before they take power. Then they might be able to make their decisions for the country based on first-hand knowledge. Or is it important that our leaders keep some distance from the realities of these services. After all, they need to make policy in an objective way, without getting too emotionally involved, so that all factors can be taken into consideration. What do you think?