

Why more and more experts say lockdown didn't prevent people dying of Covid - and call it a 'monumental mistake on a global scale', writes JO MACFARLANE

By JO MACFARLANE FOR THE MAIL ON SUNDAY

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It was 'a simple instruction' to the British people, said the Prime Minister: 'You must stay at home.'

That sombre televised address, shown on March 23, 2020 – two years ago last – the country was plunged into its first national **lockdown**.

Weeks of surging Covid infections, and horrified by the staggering scale of hospitalisations and deaths in **Spain** and **Italy**, the Government had concluded there was no option but to issue an unprecedented order to curb the growing pandemic crisis. It was following the science, after all.

Doom-laden epidemiological models had pointed to a possible UK death toll of 250,000 within five months.

Efforts to 'flatten the curve' – to drive down infection numbers and protect the NHS – had not been enough, Government advisers had concluded.

Just a week earlier, on March 16, Boris Johnson had advised Britons to stop going to pubs and restaurants, to avoid non-essential travel and to work from home if they could.

Within days, schools were shut and those considered most vulnerable to the virus – pregnant women, the over-70s and people with serious health conditions – were advised not to go outside.

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 After weeks of surging Covid infections, and horrified by the staggering scale of hospitalisations and deaths in Spain and Italy, the Government had concluded there was no option but to issue an unprecedented order to curb the growing pandemic crisis. It was following the science, after all. (Pictured: Boris Johnson addressing the nation in 2020)



© Getty Images
 Advocates for England's previous lockdowns, Chief Scientific Adviser Patrick Vallance (left) and Britain's Chief Medical Officer for England Chris Whitty (right) walk through Westminster on February 21, 2022

By March 20, all pubs, restaurants and cafes were ordered to close, as were cinemas, gyms and leisure centres.

'We are going to defeat this disease with a huge national effort to slow the virus down by reducing unnecessary social contact,' the PM told the nation.

That was Friday. By Monday, the Government had issued its most draconian order: a stay-at-home order, a legal mandate that permitted people to leave their homes only for specific purposes: to shop for basic supplies, for medical purposes, for exercise, and for work.



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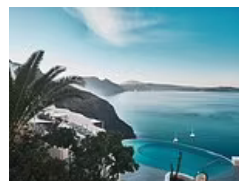


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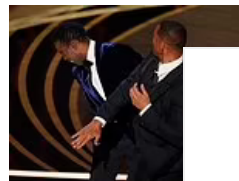
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This lasted seven weeks, and led to some of the most heartbreaking and damaging moments of the pandemic.

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Were lockdowns pointless after all?
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Dying patients said goodbye to loved ones via a video call. Women gave birth without their partners.

Mental health issues, particularly in the young, began to take root. Reports of domestic violence rose dramatically as women were trapped with their abusers.

And it wasn't the last. In November 2020 there was a second national lockdown, lasting four weeks.

And then, in January 2021 came the big one: a lockdown that lasted almost three months.

The true toll won't be known for some time.

Over the general scientific consensus, rarely challenged, is that these measures are a necessary evil that saved lives. But just how true is that?

There is no doubt that robust measures were necessary against a new devastating virus, was lockdown truly the only route through those dark days of the pandemic, or the right one?

For the past few weeks, in a series of reports probing the science that has underpinned key pandemic decisions, The Mail on Sunday has investigated the accuracy of PCR tests and the chaotic way Covid-related deaths were recorded.

Today, in the final part, we talk to the growing number of experts who say that lockdowns had little benefit – a cure that was worse than the disease.

One of them is Professor Mark Woolhouse, an epidemiologist at the University of Edinburgh, who has recently published a book, *The Year The World Went Mad*, about the UK's pandemic policy failures.

Speaking this week on The Mail on Sunday's Medical Minefield podcast, Prof Woolhouse said: 'I think that lockdown

The timeline of England's lockdowns

March 16, 2020

At the beginning of the month, the first UK Covid death is confirmed. Government advises against non-essential travel and socialising, and suggests working from home. Four days later schools close, along with pubs and restaurants.

March 23

First lockdown begins. Non-essential shops are closed and Britons are ordered to stay at home. This is made a legal requirement. Deaths peak at 1,076 on March 27.

June 1

First lockdown begins to begin to reopen as do non-essential shops, two weeks later. On June 1, the PM announces that the 'national hibernation' is over.

July 4



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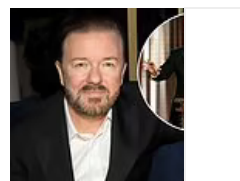
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will be viewed by history as a monumental mistake on a global scale, for a number of reasons.

'The obvious one is the immense harm the lockdown, more than any other measure, did in terms of the economy, mental health and on the wellbeing of society.

'Clearly things needed to be done to bring waves of infection under control.

'But many analyses suggest that lockdown itself didn't have a huge impact on reducing the health burden. That was achieved in other ways.'

Analysing the effect of any single Covid measure is difficult, and researchers have managed it with varying degrees of success.

In the UK, 'lockdown' refers specifically to the stay-at-home order. But some studies also include school and border closures, business closures and curfews in their definition of lockdown.

When all these measures are looked together, they do indeed have an impact – reducing infection rates by up to 20 per cent.

One paper that did attempt to tease out the benefits of individual measures, published last month, found stay-at-home orders reduced global Covid deaths by just 2.9 per cent.

By comparison, business closures cut deaths by ten per cent and school closures by nearly five per cent.

The authors, economists linked to Johns Hopkins University in the US, have been accused of bias – one has repeatedly equated lockdown measures with fascism – and 'cherry-picking' papers to suit their hypothesis.

'If you start with a premise and select studies which are likely to back that premise, you don't come to an objective answer,' says epidemiologist and Government adviser Dr Raghbi Ali, at the University of Cambridge.

Pubs, restaurants, hairdressers reopen – except in Leicester, which is subject to the first local lockdown, with non-essential shops remaining closed.

September 14

Rising cases led to the introduction of 'rule of six' indoors and outdoors. By the end of the month, the work from home begins again and a 10pm curfew came into force for pubs, bars and restaurants

October 14

Three tier system of Covid-19 restrictions begins in England. In the highest tier hospitality venues are closed. People are not permitted to mix with other households at home, but can meet in groups of up to six outdoors.

November 5

Second national lockdown in England, but schools stay open. At the end of the month, the Prime Minister announces that three households will be able to meet for five days over Christmas.

December 2

The second lockdown ends, and England returns to a three-tier system. On 21st December London and South East are put into new Tier 4 restrictions, with a stay-at-home order and mixing permitted with just one other person in an public outdoor space.

2021

January 6

The third national lockdown begins. Schools close – a day after they went back following the Christmas break. In February, the PM publishes roadmap for lifting lockdown, and hotel quarantine for arrivals from high risk countries begins.

March 29

Stay at home order ends. People can only mix with six people from other households, outdoors. By the end of the month the roadmap's Stage 1 begins and schools in England reopen.

April 12

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But intriguingly, Dr Ali and others also admit the researchers have a point.

In a critique of the paper, Australian epidemiologist Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz describes it as an 'extremely poor quality study'.

But he also points out that, while the figures quoted are 'pretty meaningless, the general idea is not totally wild'.

He wrote: 'If we define lockdown as 'the marginal benefit of stay-at-home orders on top of many other restrictions' it's probably fair to argue that the benefit might be quite small.

'Indeed, that's been shown before, and is quite a reasonable position based on the evidence.'

Another study that backs this, published in Science in February last year, found 'stay at home' measures reduced Covid transmission by an average of 13 per cent on top of other measures such as closing schools and non-essential shops, and banning small gatherings.

... study, which looked at evidence from 41 countries around the world, concluded ... as a 'small effect' and meant 'some countries could control the epidemic while ... ing stay-at-home orders'.

... found something intriguing: lockdowns could, in a worst-case scenario, ... lly increase transmission of the virus by up to five per cent.

This may be an effect of allowing it to spread within households, experts say.

Prof Woolhouse has argued that, if the aim was partially to protect society's most vulnerable, lockdowns failed.

'We focused on this idea that if we stopped the virus transmitting among everybody, that this would somehow be sufficient to protect those who were at risk,' he says. 'And it wasn't.'

Prof Woolhouse also argues that for lockdown to have had an effect it would need to have been imposed earlier.

This is what worked in Australia and New Zealand, which pursued a 'zero Covid' strategy.

Roadmap Step 2 sees non-essential retail, hairdressers, pubs and restaurants reopen. Step 3, starting May 17th, allows six people or two households to meet indoors. Theatres and stadiums reopen. In June, restrictions on funerals and weddings end.

July 19

Freedom day. All legal limits on social contact – except for those with Covid symptoms – are removed. This wasn't the end – in September, Plan B measures included work-from-home advice and mask mandates. But no more lockdowns.



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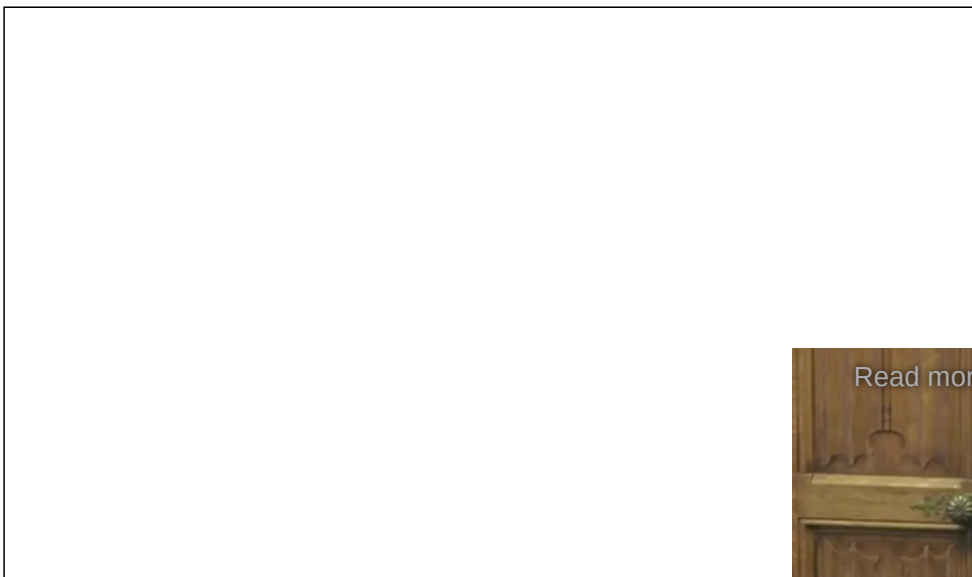


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In the UK, lockdown was seen – at a point of desperation – as the only option left remaining. (Pictured: The Stay Home, Protect The NHS, Save Lives slogan)



Prof Woolhouse has argued that, if the aim was partially to protect society's n lockdowns failed. (file photo)

'We passed that point in the second half of February 2020,' he says.

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'Lockdown as an intervention only makes sense in the context of zero Covid, and by the time it was imposed it was no longer the appropriate tool.

▶ [and tackle productivity](#)

'There are ways we could have responded to the pandemic that would have avoided most of the lockdown, and saved more lives.

'But lockdown happened anyway because by that stage no one – including me – was prepared to risk waiting to find out if [restrictions introduced prior to our full lockdown on March 23] had worked.'

▶ [Matt Smith is soaked with a hose as he is seen for the first time on the Yorkshire set of his 1970s horror movie Starve Acre](#)

But that stay-at-home order was, for most, the hardest part of the pandemic. 'It made everything so much harder than it might have been,' he adds.

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Countries that had earlier lockdowns, better testing capacity and were able to identify and isolate cases fared better during the initial wave of the pandemic.

In the UK, lockdown was seen – at a point of desperation – as the only option left remaining.

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But Prof Woolhouse argues people had already become more cautious. Studies using anonymised mobile phone location tracking data show contacts between people plummeted in early March (although the biggest drop was March 24, the day after lockdown).

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Dr Ali says: 'The purpose of lockdown is to reduce contacts, but if people are doing that anyway, the additional benefit [of making it a legal requirement to stay at home] is obviously somewhat reduced.

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'Case numbers at the time weren't really available because there was no community testing, so we've had to work backwards from hospital admissions. From that, there's actually some evidence that Covid cases may have peaked before lockdown came in, or around that time.

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'If we had known then what we know now, I don't think we would have needed to lock down.'

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A recent inquiry by officials in Sweden into the handling of its pandemic – where there was no lockdown and the population was expected to voluntarily follow 'advice and recommendations' – found this reliance on people's behaviour was 'fundamentally correct'.

▶ [Prince Beatrice and Eugenie arrive together with their husbands as they attend Prince Philip's service of thanksgiving at](#)

Lockdowns across Europe were also neither necessary nor defensible, the report added.

Would this have worked in the UK? The evidence shows the impact of lockdowns were less effective in the second wave precisely because people were still socialising less frequently and masks, hand sanitiser and safety screens were not used consistently.

This led Dr Ali and others to advise Ministers not to impose lockdowns until December 2021, with the emergence of highly transmissible Omicron.

'In the second and third lockdowns, in November 2020 and again in January 2021, we have a better idea of when cases peaked and again it seems this was before lockdown came in,' Dr Ali says.



Mr Meyerowitz-Katz adds: 'A lot of people underestimated the impact of voluntary behaviour change on Covid-19 death rates.'

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Prof Woolhouse believes that the second and third lockdown are 'very hard to defend'.

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ad the tools in place, the knowledge in place, the systems in place to do it a ent way,' he says. 'And we didn't do that.'

gain, it's easy to say in hindsight.

, who backed all three lockdowns, says: 'At the time of the second lockdown we hadn't started the vaccination programme, we had predictions that hospitals would be overwhelmed, particularly intensive care units, so for that reason alone I thought it was reasonable.'

'The third was different – we had vaccines, so lockdown was about flattening the curve, postponing infections until people had their jobs.'

The UK is now facing a significant further wave of infections from a more transmissible variant of Omicron, but with a highly vaccinated population even the most cautious experts agree the benefits of another lockdown are unlikely to outweigh the harms.

Like many experts, Professor Stephen Griffin, virologist at the University of Leeds and a member of Independent Sage, believes there is 'no question whatsoever' that locking down first time round 'prevented hospitalisations and deaths

He says: 'In the absence of a vaccine – and we need to remember we anything to treat this virus back then other than oxygen – we needed cases.'

'If we'd let it run, we'd have had an even more profoundly upsetting m than we've already seen.'

However, he adds: 'No one would realistically say lockdown should b more. There are so many things we could do to get transmission dow

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Samir Bhatt, professor of statistics and public health at Imperial College London, agrees.

'Once you close the shops, suggest people stop going out to work in an office and stop people gathering, the incremental effects of each measure become less and less.

'But that doesn't mean lockdowns weren't necessary to drive the R rate below one.'

In the end, what we don't know is what scientists call 'the counterfactual' – in other words, what would have happened in the UK if we had not locked down.

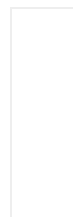
Looking just at home nations, which are comparable because of broadly similar populations, Dr Ali says that 'despite England having less stringent restrictions we've had, if anything, a slightly lower death rate [than in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland]. It suggests there's no obvious relationship between restrictions, mandatory interventions and death rates.'

A study published in The Lancet came to a similar conclusion. Sweden, which took a relatively relaxed approach, recorded a similar rate of deaths to neighbouring Denmark and Finland – both of which imposed strict lockdowns – at about 90 per 100,000.

China weigh up opening up society and lifting zero-Covid policy



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In comparison, the UK – which had tougher restrictions than all three – recorded 127 excess deaths per 100,000.

Yet that is still well behind Spain, at 187, and Italy at 227 – both of which had particularly stringent lockdowns.

Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and Singapore, which had strict border quarantine and testing regimes, did not record any excess deaths.

In Hong Kong, where the zero Covid strategy failed spectacularly to keep the virus out, the death rate at present is bewilderingly high.

And China, still attempting to keep Covid out, has just put vast swathes of its country under lockdown.

▶ [into a freezing lake](#)

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As Dr Ali puts it: 'Some people say lockdowns were beneficial, others that they were really terrible.'

▶ patrons

'The reality actually is much closer to the idea that it didn't make much difference either way.'

For those who made painful sacrifices, that won't be an easy truth to swallow.

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▶ Michael Bay speaks out about Will Smith's infamous SLAP at the Oscars during a beach jaunt in Miami: 'He's a great guy. I've never seen him mad'

▶ Revealed: Kim Kardashian's new go-to shoe is \$450 flip flop by Balenciaga... that look just like the disposable ones handed out at nail salons

▶ Beyonce and Jay-Z look like the King and Queen of Hollywood! She stuns in a strapless gown and he is 007 handsome in a tux jacket at the Oscars

▶ Australian actress Isabel Lucas takes a bizarre jab at Willow Smith accusing the singer of losing her 'spirit' after she shared photos of her high-fashion Oscars outfit

▶ Joy Corrigan channels Barbie in a barely-there hot pink bikini while taking a dip in the ocean on a sun-soaked vacation to Miami

▶ 'Had one of those days today': Little Mix star Leigh-Anne Pinnoch displays her pert bottom in a green co-ord as she



▶ Hills

▶ **The Academy FINALLY condemns Will Smith: King Richard actor faces losing Oscar for slapping Chris Rock during live broadcast as Academy launches formal review**

▶ **RHONJ's Melissa Gorga flashes her toned midriff in chic two-piece jumpsuit while Jackie Goldschneider and Dorinda Medley ooze glamour**

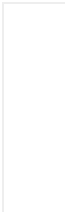
▶ **The moment Hollywood learnt Will slapped Chris: Taika Waititi gasps while Sarah Paulson Googles as stars who missed out party at Vanity Fair**

▶ **Betty White's gorgeous beach-front California estate of over 40 years listed for sale at \$8million... three months after comedy legend's death at 99**

▶ **'You're like a mum to me!' Kieran Hayler's fiancée Michelle Pentecost shares handmade Mother's Day card from Katie Price's son Jett, 8**

▶ **Khloe Kardashian finally reveals her Oscars party look as she poses up a storm on Instagram... after skipping the red carpet**
Looking lovely

▶ **Katy Perry SPLITS the back of her leather pants and is forced to tape them up on latest American Idol**
Suffered a wardrobe



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▶ **American Idol: Kelsie Dolin overcomes nerves and lack of confidence to advance during Hollywood Week**

▶ **Manchester City player Phil Foden 'sparks police complaint after holding Mother's Day music festival and blasting Whitney Houston ballads'**

▶ **Molly-Mae Hague models a figure-hugging minidress as she steps out for dinner after admitting endometriosis battle makes sex 'excruciating'**

▶ **Paris Hilton returns to a classic look as she launches her new Iconic Tracksuit collection with a pink velour suit a**

▶ **Lindsay Lohan celebrates engagement with fiancé Bader Shammass four months after announcing romantic union: 'My forever'**

▶ **Britney Spears compliments Kevin Federline and Shar Jackson's daughter Kori on her artistic talents: 'I respect people who can draw like this'**

EXCLUSIVE **Hunter Biden's bikini-clad wife Melissa Cohen, 35, continues to live it up in Rio de Janeiro as she frolics with a male pal**

▶ **Will Smith's Oscars**
outheast has hosted his



▶ **Smith Oscar controversy: 'It's a classic narcissist who made the entire event about himself'**

▶ **'You look really pretty so you can talk to all the contestants': Dee Koppang O'Leary speaks out on sexism she experienced in the TV industry**

▶ **'This will unquestionably be her breakthrough role': Line Of Duty star India Amarteifio is cast in new Bridgerton spin off Queen Charlotte**

▶ **Love Island twins Jess and Eve Gale display their sensational figures in busty skintight outfits as they step out hand-in-hand for dinner date**
Hard to miss

▶ **'He's decided to try different things': Alja Korjanec 'was on the fence' about quitting Strictly after nine years before announcing his shock departure**

▶ **CRAIG BROWN: As Genesis, total age 214, say farewell... How the rock of ages keeps on rolling**
Pop has people a lifetime of gainful employment

▶ **Stormzy gives his home crowd a night to remember as he takes to the stage for his Heavy Is The Head Tour at a packed O2 Arena**
Centre-stage

▶ **'Watch this space!' Katie Price says she's having new custom vehicle designed as she**



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▶ **Broadway's Plaza Suite after two-year shutdown**

▶ **Tiffany Haddish corrects a reporter calling her outfit at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party a 'costume': 'This is not an act, this is my life'**
Not happy

▶ **Picture perfect! How all performers and presenters looked TV-ready on stage at the Academy Awards**
All celebs look picture perfect on Sunday night

▶ **SARAH VINE: I know the torment of cruel hair loss 'jokes'... Bald women are generally considered an abomination**
Depressing condition

▶ **His greatest legacy... their greatest honour: Duke of Edinburgh award holders tell of huge pride at being central to Prince Philip's memorial service**

▶ **Kanye West's ex Julia Fox teases that her upcoming debut novel is a 'masterpiece' and will be 'out soon'**
Released a few details about her first novel

▶ **'Riri said wear your bump with pride': Pregnant Olivia Bowen channels expectant Rihanna as she displays her growing baby bump in a blue co-ord**

▶ **Jamie Redknapp gushes over his wife Frida Andersson and says watching her with their son Raphael 'makes my heart melt' in Mother's Day tribute**



▶ **Megan Fox wears a leopard print mini dress as she sticks out her tongue with beau Machine Gun Kelly in their messy room during Lollapalooza**

▶ **Will Smith could still be SUED for damages by Chris Rock over his Oscar night slap, legal expert warns**

The comedian received an open-handed smack

▶ **Could Diddy's 16-year-old daughter be set for future Oscar success? Chance Combs reveals her acting aspirations as she makes Academy Awards debut**

▶ **The name's Page... Regé-Jean Page: Bridgerton star passes the Bond audition in a dapper tuxedo as 007 hopeful attends Oscars party**

▶ **Kobe Bryant's daughter Natalia Bryant goes with a plunging neckline at the Vanity Fair Oscar party as her mother Vanessa calls her a 'golden goddess'**

▶ **Will Smith's slap helps Oscars stumble to higher ratings: More than 15.4 million people tuned in to the Academy Awards - up 56% from 2021**

▶ **All that glitters! Nicole Kidman wore a whopping 33.42 carats of diamonds around her neck at the Oscars - including a rare canary yellow stone**

▶ **Keith Urban as you've NEVER seen him before: How a shy kid with a spectacular mullet took himself from Queensland to Nashville to become a superstar**



▶ Why gelato colours were the coolest look on Oscar night: DINAH VAN TULLEKEN examines how the palest confections made the most impact

▶ Nicole Scherzinger puts on a very busty display in ah tiny blue bikini as she stuns fans in a slew of stunning throwback selfies
Stunning

▶ Larsa Pippen, 47, poses in a VERY skimpy bikini in Miami... after Kim Kardashian's ex Kanye West liked one of her Instagram pinup posts

▶ Liberty Poole flashes her abs in a black sports bra as she quenches her thirst after late night celebrations at Dancing On Ice wrap party

▶ Emily Atack basks in the spring sunshine wearing a fuchsia dress as she gives a behind-the-scenes peek of a new shoot
Coming soon

▶ Love Is Blind host Nick Lachey loses his temper at female photographer calling her a 'p***y mother f****r' and attempts to SNATCH her phone

▶ 'Say hi to my new tattoos': Lottie Moss strips down to her pink lingerie as she shows off her new ink in sizzling snaps
Wow

▶ Jonathan Ross shows off his beloved E-type Jaguar to Bradley Walsh as they step out for lunch... but host struggles to fit into cramped driver's seat!

▶ Amy Schumer accuses



▶ son Cruz, 7, get their hair cut and bleached: 'We like to experiment'
Got a beauty refresher over the weekend

▶ Cheer star Morgan Simianer gets engaged to Stone Burlison in Dallas after a year of dating: 'I can't wait to marry my best friend!'
Lovely news

▶ John Legend's kids 'are excited' at the possibility of having a sibling... after wife Chrissy Teigen revealed she completed IVF
Can't wait

EXCLUSIVE Renee Zellweger and boyfriend Ant Anstead share a kiss as they celebrate his 43rd birthday at Disneyland with his sons

▶ Help me if you can! Sir Paul McCartney lends a hand after witnessing traffic accident between car and quad bike during lavish family holiday in St Barts

▶ Dancing On Ice 2022 final ratings on the up as 4.1million viewers tune in to see Regan Gascoigne and Karina Manta win while 3.7m watched 2021 finale

▶ Amy Schumer admits she felt guilty for getting liposuction because 'it's such a privilege thing' that most people can't afford - but says it made her feel 'a lot better'

▶ Diddy says the feud is over! Rapper claims Will Smith and Chris Rock have made up after THAT slip that rocked


















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Night out

▶ **The Circle reality star Freddie Bentley is arrested for assault and says he was defending himself after Wetherspoon drinkers yelled at him**

▶ **'This is longevity!' Diane Warren reflects on success in the industry after 13-time Oscar nominee lost out on Academy Award win to Billie Eilish**

▶ **Prince Harry faces 'lifetime of regret' for missing memorial to his grandfather due to police protection row - as Queen 'knows she can't change his mind'**

▶ **Newly-single Jason Momoa puts on a cosy display with Kate Beckinsale as chivalrous star gives actress his jacket at Vanity Fair party**

▶ **Sally Dynevor gives skating partner Matt Evers a farewell hug the morning after the Dancing On Ice cast wrapped up the series with boozy bash**

EXCLUSIVE **Mark Wright hits back at claims he has an easy**

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▶ **Bailey and Aladdin lead Naomi Scott present together at the Oscars**

▶ **'I have alopecia and I'm a comedian who sometimes gets it wrong': Matt Lucas has 'no idea' what to think of Will Smith slapping Chris Rock**

▶ **Love Island's Kaz Crossley puts on a very busty display as she goes braless in a one shoulder top during night out in Manchester**
Good times

▶ **Ashley Roberts is the epitome of chic in a beige figure-hugging minidress as she makes a stylish exit from Heart FM**
Stylish as always

▶ **Pregnant Olivia Bowen looks sensational as she slips into a hot pink minidress to celebrate her FIRST Mothers Day as a mum-to-be**
She's expecting

▶ **The Kid Laroi and girlfriend Katarina Deme, both 18, pack on the PDA as they attend Vanity Fair Oscar Party in LA - after revealing marriage plans**

▶ **Nicola Adams' pregnant girlfriend Ella Baig displays her baby bump in nude snap as she admits preparing to become a mother is 'hard and draining'**

▶ **'I thought you were pregnant!': Molly-Mae Hague sends fans into meltdown as she shares photo of a baby bump**





▶ **Only Murders in the Building Season 2 trailer offers a glimpse at new stars Cara Delevingne and Amy Schumer as a new murder mystery unfolds**

▶ **Lady Louise's tribute to Prince Philip: Late Duke's youngest granddaughter, 18, who shared his love of carriage driving, is seen practising in Windsor**

▶ **Laura Kuenssberg says its a 'genuine honour' as she's unveiled as new £340,000-a-year host of BBC's Sunday morning politics show**

▶ **Liam Gallagher's son, 20, Ringo Starr's grandson, 21, and their male model friend, 21, will stand trial this week accused of 'racially aggravated assault'**

▶ **Love overload! Kourtney Kardashian has her butt GRABBED by fiancé Travis Barker at Vanity Fair bash... after they tongue touched at Oscars**

▶ **Euphoria star Sydney Sweeney simply stuns in a sheer custom crystal Miu Miu gown with a thigh grazing slit at 2022 Vanity Fair Oscar bash**

▶ **Paris Jackson shows off her legs in a ruffled brown dress as she attends the Vanity Fair Oscar party during a break from her tour**
Bold look



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▶ **Megan Thee Stallion shows off her voluptuous physique in a cut out plunging gown as she attends the Vanity Fair Oscar party**
Looking good

▶ **Best Actress winner Jessica Chastain joins Rita Ora, Heidi Klum and love rivals Kim Kardashian and Julia Fox at star-studded Vanity Fair party**

▶ **David Letterman gives Ellen DeGeneres advice for when her controversial talk show ends: 'Get another show'**
Honest

▶ **Michael Che denies he is leaving Saturday Night Live following rumors of his departure... after almost a decade on the show**
Speaking out

▶ **Anthony Anderson's wife Alvina Stewart Anderson files for divorce following 22 years of marriage... seven years after they split briefly**

▶ **How tall is Jennifer Garner? The siren in red towers over Elliott Page and JK Simmons at the Oscars**
Jennifer was a bombshell in a red gown

▶ **Jamie Lee Curtis, 63, and John Travolta, 68, enjoy a 'Perfect' reunion at the Oscars**
They starred together in the 1985 movie famous for its workout scenes

▶ **'This is a step backwards': Oscars 2022 SLAMMED by fans for playing Toto song Africa as Daniel Kaluuya and H.E.R. took to the stage**

▶ **Will Smith jokes 'You can't invite people from**



▶ called out for 'bizarre' American twang as he defends friend Will Smith for slapping Chris Rock saying 'he had the right to do what he did'

▶ 'I carry a piece of him with me as a mentor': Placebo's Brian Molko reveals he believes his late friend David Bowie is still with the band as their 'lucky star'

▶ Pregnant Georgina Rodriguez looks chic in an unmissable pink blazer as she takes partner Cristiano Ronaldo's children to football training

▶ There ain't no party like a Dancing On Ice party! The stars of 2022 celebrate Regan Gascoigne's triumph with S Club rendition and dance-offs

▶ Is this the moment Chris Rock tries to make peace with Will Smith? Moment captured shows comic apparently trying to apologize to King Richard star

▶ Bob Saget is snubbed during Academy Awards In Memoriam two months after his death... and fans take to Twitter to express their discontent

▶ Daisy May Cooper screws up an eviction notice as bailiffs try to throw her out of her flat in scenes for comedy Rain Dogs in Bristol

▶ Kaia Gerber rocks a



▶ **fiancée Sophie Austin as they attend a Mum and Me event**

The pair seemed in high spirits

▶ **Denise Van Outen steps out in downpour - as cheating ex Eddie Boxshall shares cryptic post following claims she is 'back in touch with ex fiancé Jay Kay'**

EXCLUSIVE 'I'm not living for me, I'm living for her': Malin Andersson reveals newborn Xaya gave her 'purpose'

▶ **Strictly's Alja korjanec QUILTS show after nine years as he follows in the footsteps of wife Janette Manrara who left the pro lineup in 2021**

▶ **Coronation Street's Sam Aston wife Briony cradles her blossoming baby bump in a black dress and pink jacket as they step out together in Cheshire**

▶ **Andrea McLean returns to Loose Women for the first time since quitting and reveals she had to sell her home to finance her wellness business**

▶ **Nicole Richie packs on the PDA with husband Joel Madden as they share a kiss outside the Vanity Fair Oscar party**
Cute couple

▶ **Prince Andrew prepares to make final official royal appearance at his father Prince Philip's memorial**

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▶ appearance as a couple

▶ Jennifer Garner sizzles in red gown as she attends Netflix Oscars after-party with Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard at San Vicente Bungalows

▶ Serena Williams is left too STUNNED to speak after watching Will Smith SLAP Chris Rock at the Oscars - before star defended his actions

▶ Pregnant Nicky Hilton plants a kiss on her husband James Rothschild as they hit the Vanity Fair Oscar party with her mom Kathy Hilton in tow

▶ Kim Kardashian is mocked at the Oscars for 'nobody wants to work these days' comments as Judi Dench is jokingly told to 'work harder' after missing out on award

▶ 'That's out of control rage': Judd Apatow claims Will Smith 'could have killed' Chris Rock after slapping him at the Oscars in a now-deleted tweet

▶ Taylor Swift has been chosen to receive an honorary Doctor Of Fine Arts from New York University in May
Will soon have another achievement

▶ CODA's Eugenio Derbez scoops Emilia Jones into his arms as the animated cast celebrate their big



▶ Cadieu, 26, at the Vanity Fair Oscar party

▶ Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins' body is due to be repatriated as family is set to make funeral arrangements after investigators in Colombia released him

▶ Kate to do solo tours after Caribbean blunders: Duchess will carry out 'shorter trips on issues that matter to her' as she and William vow to 'rip up rulebook'

▶ Sports Illustrated model Nina Agdal shows off her washboard abs in tiny green bikini as she celebrates her 30th birthday in Miami

▶ Matt Lanter undergoes emergency surgery as his wife Angela says he 'still has an uphill battle' and will have to stay hospitalized 'a while longer'

▶ Jamie Dornan's wife Amelia Warner wows in draped peach gown as stunning couple enjoy the Vanity Fair Oscars party

▶ This couple doesn't age! Kyra Sedgwick, 56, flaunts knockout figure in TIGHT gold dress as she poses with husband of 34 years Kevin Bacon, 63

▶ Kim Kardashian defends controversial comments about women needing to 'get your a** up and work', insisting she was 'taken



▶ Sir Anthony Hopkins, 84, finally makes his return to the Academy Awards as he is greeted with a standing ovation and shares kisses with wife Stella, 66

▶ Ariana DeBose sizzles in scarlet as she makes history as first openly gay woman of colour to win acting Oscar before hitting Vanity Fair after-party in a LBD

▶ Ashlee Simpson wows in a plunging embellished gown with sexy cut-outs as she joins husband Evan Ross at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party

▶ Amy Schumer looks exquisite in a white bustier silk dress as she attends the Vanity Fair Oscars party after co-hosting the 94th annual Academy Awards

▶ Delighted Billie Eilish lifts her Oscar in the air as she celebrates her win for Best Song in a black ruffled mini dress a with her brother Finneas O'Connell at the Vanity Fair party

▶ Vanessa Hudgens dazzles in a sequin Valentino gown with a sheer skirt at the Vanity Fair Oscar bash
She looked effortlessly gorgeous

▶ Pregnant Rihanna displays her blossoming baby bump in sheer black gown as she arrives at Jay-Z's VERY star-studded Oscar party in Los Angeles



▶ **Anya Taylor-Joy turns heads in a quirky veil and sheer gown as she packs on the PDA with boyfriend Malcolm McRae after they made their red carpet debut**

▶ **Dapper Kevin Costner shares a loving look with glamorous wife Christine Baumgartner as they cosy up at the Vanity Fair Oscars afterparty**

▶ **Chaos at Oscars as Will Smith SLAPS Chris Rock and launches foul-mouthed tirade... minutes before he wins the Best Actor award and defends attack**

▶ **Kate Beckinsale appears in good spirits as she parties with Isla Fisher and Rita Ora at star-studded Vanity Fair Oscars bash**
Loving life

▶ **Christina Milian has all eyes on her as she wows in a daring draped gown for Jay-Z's stellar Oscars bash**
The actress and singer, 40, was all smiles

▶ **Kourtney Kardashian and fiancé Travis Barker share kisses as they party into the early hours at Vanity Fair bash... after she became the first in her family to go to the Oscars**

▶ **The Kid Laroi, 18, reveals MARRIAGE plans with TikTok star girlfriend Katarina Deme - as the pair star in stunning Vogue Australia shoot**



▶ **Chris Rock's most controversial jokes: As comedian is SLAPPED by Will Smith for poking fun at Jada's alopecia, MailOnline takes a look at the star's most shocking remarks**

▶ **Most controversial Oscars moments EVER: Will Smith slap drama follows Angelina Jolie kissing her brother and 2017's WRONG Best Picture announcement**

▶ **Oscars best dressed! Nicole Kidman, Zoe Kravitz, Jessica Chastain and Zendaya lead the glamorous red carpet stars at the Academy Awards**

▶ **And the Oscar for WORST dressed goes to... Billie Eilish suffers fail in an ENORMOUS gown, while Kristen Stewart goes for shock factor in TINY hot pants**

▶ **The Squad PRAISES Will Smith: Ayanna Pressley tweets and deletes message saying 'women with baldies are for real men only...boys need not apply**

▶ **Ciara displays her toned frame in racy cut-out dress as she joins dapper husband Russell Wilson at Vanity Fair's Oscars bash**

▶ **Zoe Kravitz oozes chic in a high-necked white gown with a perilously low scooping back as she attends the Vanity Fair Oscar party in California**

▶ **Natalie Portman gazes adoringly into the eyes of her husband Benjamin Millepied as they attend the Vanity Fair Oscar Party**



▶ **Oscars 2022 WINNERS: Will Smith's Best Actor win marred in controversy... after physical row with Chris Rock over joke about wife Jada Pinkett Smith**

▶ **Was Will planning to make up with Chris at Vanity Fair? Reporter claims actor was set for public apology at bash after THAT slap... but comic is a no-show**

▶ **And the award DOESN'T go to! Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst and Diane Warren fail to hide their disappointment as they miss out at Oscars**

▶ **Lady Gaga dazzles in ballgown after Oscars snub as she joins a leggy Heidi Klum and a VERY busty Saweetie at Elton John's star-studded viewing party**

▶ **What the Fox? Julia pushes fashion boundaries in a leather gown with a clawed HAND neckline and a clutch made of HUMAN HAIR**

▶ **Olivia Colman wows in a sequin embellished gown as she parties with her husband Ed Sinclair at Vanity Fair Oscar bash after losing out on Best Actress**

▶ **The leading lady of the Oscars! Jessica Chastain flashes a winning smile as she poses with her Best Actress gong in two stunning looks**

▶ **A big night for Kenneth! Branagh is supported by his wife Lindsay Brunnock as he wins his first EVER Oscar and gushes 'this is an enormous honour for my family'**



▶ don't belong'

▶ Chris Rock 'may have landed himself in hot water with Academy Award bosses as his Jada Pinkett Smith joke was NOT pre-vetted during rehearsals'

▶ Jade Pinkett-Smith praised after she 'rolled her eyes' at Chris Rock making a joke about her shaved head - before Will Smith stormed the stage to slap him

▶ 'Me not caring about the Oscars but suddenly seeing that': The internet reacts to Will Smith's Chris Rock slap with Men In Black memory eraser memes

▶ DAN WOOTTON: An Oscars standing ovation for Will Smith after he physically assaulted Chris Rock proves woke Hollywood hypocrites have warped priorities

▶ Nicole Kidman pulls wild animated faces in the front row at the Oscars and becomes a meme after Will Smith HITS Chris Rock on stage at awards show

▶ Halsey leaves little to the imagination in a thong-flashing lace gown as she attends the Vanity Fair Oscars party
Halsey, 27, ensured all eyes were on her

▶ Queen still determined to attend Prince Philip's memorial: Royal experts suggest monarch, 95, feels it is 'very important' to be at

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▶ [Oscars party](#)

▶ [Jane Seymour, 71, looks sensational in a cleavage-baring sequined gown as she party hops after the Oscars](#)
Wow

▶ ['Well deserved Oscar': Jordyn Woods poses with family friend Will Smith as she congratulates him on Best Actor win following dramatic confrontation with Chris Rock](#)

▶ [Furious Peaky Blinders fans call for Nazi supporter Lady Diana Mitford to meet her end after she beds cheating Tommy Shelby in a VERY steamy scene](#)

▶ [Oscars 2022: Kenneth Branagh scoops his first Academy Award EVER as he leads British winners on glittering night](#)

▶ [Lily James puts on a leggy display in an caped mini dress at the Vanity Fair Oscar party after wowing in sexy pink lace gown at the Academy Awards](#)

▶ [James Corden cuts a dashing figure in navy suit and bow tie as his wife Julia Carey wows in a silver sequin gown at Vanity Fair Oscar party](#)

▶ [Pregnant Sophie Turner showed off her baby bump in a stunning red gown with husband Joe Jonas at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Los Angeles](#)



▶ Leggy Winnie Harlow risks a VERY serious wardrobe malfunction in a racy lilac gown held together with safety pins as she attends the Vanity Fair Oscar Party

▶ Heidi Klum, 48, exudes Hollywood glamour in flowing yellow gown as she is joined by husband Tom Kaulitz, 32, at Vanity Fair Oscars party

▶ Tiffany Haddish defends Will Smith for SLAPPING Chris Rock after joke about Jada Pinkett Smith: 'It was the most beautiful thing I've ever seen'

▶ Kim Kardashian and her sister Kendall Jenner share a joke with longtime pal Serena Williams as they catch up at the Vanity Fair Oscars' afterparty

▶ Alessandra Ambrosio commands attention in a dramatic plunging bodysuit and very leggy sheer skirt at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party
Wow

▶ Prince William 'holds emergency crisis talks with senior aides' after being rocked by the backlash against the royal tour of the Caribbean

▶ Suki Waterhouse dazzles in a strapless sequinned gown with a feathered hem at the Vanity Fair Oscars party
Suki showed off her phenomenal figure

▶ Serena and Venus Williams shake off Will Smith drama as they arrive in style at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in LA



▶ **Kim Kardashian and Kanye West put explosive public feud aside to cheer on son's soccer game... but they keep their distance during awkward reunion**

▶ **Down-to-earth Nigella Lawson wrestles with her own luggage as she departs from Melbourne Airport after attending the Food & Wine Festival**

▶ **Dancing On Ice 2022 FINAL: Regan Gascoigne is crowned the WINNER after 'magnificent' Bolero - beating Brendan Cole and Kimberly Wyatt**

▶ **'Will Smith just smacked the s*** out of me': Chris Rock declines to file charges with police despite being left stunned and stumbling after slap**

▶ **Tearful Will Smith DEFENDS Chris Rock slap in Best Actor Oscars acceptance speech as he apologises to 'nominees and the Academy' - but NOT the comedian**

▶ **'And that's how we do it!' Jaden Smith tweets after dad Will smacks Chris Rock - before the 23-year-old shares that the acceptance speech 'made me cry'**

▶ **Liam Payne looks smitten with glamorous fiancée Maya Henry at Elton John's Oscars viewing party in West Hollywood**

▶ **Sienna Miller dazzles in a beaded one-shoulder gown with cut out detailing as she makes a glamorous arrival at the Vanity Fair Oscars' afterparty**



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▶ **Elsa Hosk exhibits her taut abs in a barely-there cutout cream dress with shoulder pads at the 2022 Vanity Fair Oscar party**

▶ **Kate Beckinsale oozes glamour in a glittering black gown with a sheer skirt at the Vanity Fair Oscars party**

She never fails to turn heads on an outing

▶ **The smack that's divided the internet: Fans row over whether Will Smith's Oscars outburst was 'disgusting'... or a fair way to 'defend' his wife**

▶ **Oscar ceremony is slammed for holding a 'moment of silence' for Ukraine but barely mentioning the invasion - despite launching into multiple woke attacks**

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Wow

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Queen stunned in a bright yellow gown

▶ **The Godfather legends Francis Ford Coppola,**



▶ **song No Time To Die... before becoming the youngest person to win three awards**

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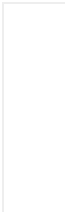
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▶ **Braless Adwoa Aboah leaves little to the imagination as she dons plunging sheer dress at Vanity Fair Oscars party**
The model, 29, left little to the imagination

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Rebel Wilson channelled Hollywood movie stars

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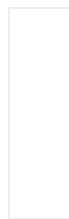
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