

Flush killer's ashes away, says daughter

BY JORDAN REYNOLDS

Soham killer Ian Huntley's daughter said she felt "relieved" when she was told his life support was turned off – and thinks his ashes should be flushed down the toilet.

The 52-year-old died in hospital after being attacked in the workshop of HMP Frankland, Durham, on February 26.

Huntley, who murdered Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in 2002, had been on life support in hospital after being hit repeatedly over the head by an inmate armed with a metal bar.

Samantha Bryan, 27, told The Sun On Sunday: "We should flush his ashes down the toilet."

His life support was

switched off at lunchtime on Friday after brain tests showed he was in a vegetative state, The Sun reported, and he was confirmed dead on Saturday.

Murderer and rapist Anthony Russell, 43, reportedly attacked Huntley.

Ms Bryan said: "He shouldn't have the dignity of a funeral and grave. I will not be going. A funeral is pointless for a man like him."

She was told by her mother that his life support had been turned off.

Ms Bryan, from Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire, told The Sun On Sunday: "I felt relieved. I didn't cry. I smiled. I was over the moon to be honest."

Her mother Katie Bryan,

45, also told The Sun On Sunday that she had considered seeing him in hospital in recent days to "make sure it was him" as a part of her "feared this was an elaborate hoax in order to give him a new identity and protect him".

She is glad Huntley will never meet their daughter, she said, adding: "I feared he'd come looking for us one day – both of us. Now, I don't have to live in fear any more."

Durham Constabulary said in a statement on Saturday: "A man who was attacked at HMP Frankland in Durham last week has died in hospital this morning."

"Ian Huntley, 52, was taken to hospital with serious injuries following an incident

in the workshop on the morning of February 26.

"A police investigation into the circumstances of the incident is ongoing."

"A file is being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service for consideration for charges."

Huntley murdered Holly and Jessica after they left a family barbecue to buy sweets in Soham, Cambridgeshire, on August 4 2002. He dumped their bodies in a ditch 10 miles away.

They were not found for 13 days, sparking a search involving hundreds of police officers.

Huntley denied murdering the two 10-year-olds, but was convicted after a trial at the Old Bailey in 2003.



DEAD: Soham murderer Ian Huntley.

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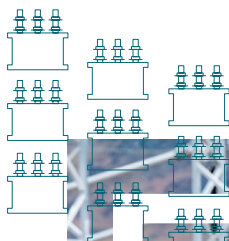
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Crufts team return after theft of van

BY FINN NIXON

A flyball club have belatedly made it home to Angus after one of their vans was stolen while they were in Birmingham for Crufts.

A Star Paws Flyball van, containing all of their expensive flyball equipment, was stolen from the Arden Hotel on Saturday night.

It left two adults and three dogs stranded, with no easy way to get back from the West Midlands to Dundee and Angus.

The van also had crucial equipment for competing, plus crates for safely transporting dogs and a recently purchased guard dog flyball box.

Luckily, the flyball community stepped in after the club shared an appeal on social media.

The Firebrand Flyball team, based near Lockerbie, gave Mandy Herald, her team-mate and their furry friends a lift home.

Mandy, 49, said: "We stayed at the Arden Hotel and it has a secure car park

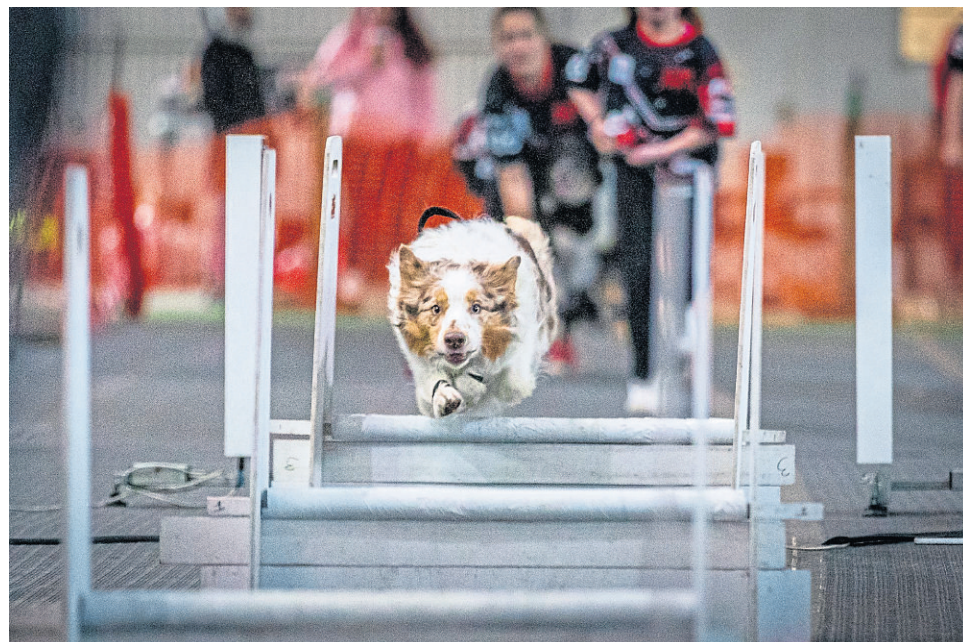
with barriers. We've stayed there before and never had any issues.

"The van was stolen at around 11.50pm on Saturday.

The number plate was registered as staying there, so the barriers just let it through.

"We only discovered what had happened when we went down at 9am on Sunday."

In flyball, teams of super-quick canines race to grab and return a ball at speed in a relay race.



PRAISE: The Star Paws Flyball team thanked their community. Picture by Steve Brown.

This was the fourth year the Star Paws Flyball team had travelled to Crufts, which is the largest celebration of dogs in the world.

Several youngsters made the trip to the iconic competition alongside members from Arbroath, Carnoustie and Dundee.

Mandy described the Firebrand team and others

in the flyball community who helped them out as "knights in shining armour".

She said there are "genuinely wonderful people within our community".

Mandy added: "We reached out to the flyball community, and they were just brilliant."

Meanwhile, there was

success for the youngsters who also travelled south.

The Star Paws Evoke Elites finished in fourth place in their competition.

Star Paws Flyball run dog training, host tournaments and support local causes.

Mandy said they aim to "demonstrate the partnership between handler and owner".

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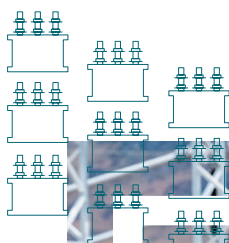
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William 'is committed to Church'

BY ELLIE NG

The Prince of Wales is committed to the Church of England, even if he does not regularly attend services, a royal aide has said as William is warned he must be a "believer" to be King.

The heir to the throne is not known for his Christian faith and, unlike his father and late grandmother, is not a regular churchgoer.

Royal author Robert Hardman wrote in 2024 that according to a senior palace figure, William "very much respects the

institutions" but he is "not instinctively comfortable in a faith environment".

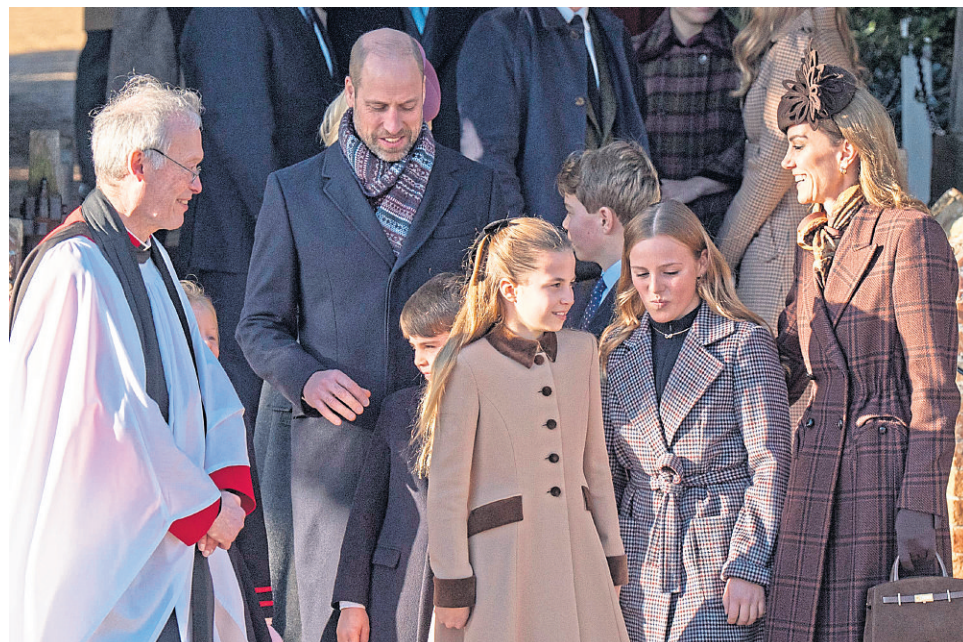
But British monarchs serve as Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Perhaps in an effort to address questions over his faith, an aide to William has said: "The Prince of Wales's commitment to the Church of England is sometimes quieter than people expect, and for that reason it is not always fully understood.

"Those who know him well recognise that his connection to the Church, and to the sense of duty that comes with it, runs deep and is grounded in something personal and sincere.

"Faith, service and responsibility are themes that have long shaped the role he will one day inherit and they are things he approaches in his own thoughtful way."

The aide told of a recent meeting between William and the Archbishop of



SERVICE: The prince with his family at church in Sandringham on Christmas Day.

Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, whose official installation the prince will attend this week.

"The prince recently had a warm and substantive conversation with the new archbishop, reflecting his genuine interest not only in the Church's work, but in its role as a guardian of a distinctive and ancient English spiritual tradition

that remains relevant in contemporary life," they said.

A source close to Dame Sarah said: "We would love the (future) supreme governor to be at church every Sunday, but one has to be practical around the fact that they are a couple with young children."

Historian Tom Holland,

who co-hosts The Rest Is History podcast, told the Times that William needs to be a "believer" to become King.

"Being a believer or at least convincingly seeming to be a believer is a job requirement, a necessary qualification – William can't really be King if he cannot manage that," he said.

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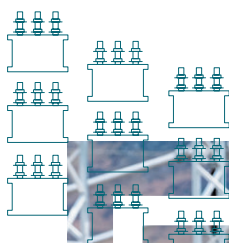
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'Bin' law boss's dual role

BY RACHEL KEENAN

Careful consideration is needed before changing the dual role of the lord advocate, the justice secretary has said.

Angela Constance was responding to a written question from SNP MSP Clare Adamson which asked when the Scottish Government would publish a report on the Scottish law officers' roles and functions.

Ms Constance confirmed the report was published as of yesterday, and said: "The report clearly sets out how and why the current system works and its considerable strengths.

"Careful consideration would be required if there were to be any changes made to the ways in which the law officers' various functions were allocated.

"As protected by the Scotland Act, the law

officers operate with integrity and entirely independently of any other person as they undertake their prosecutorial functions – separating the functions would require legislation by the UK Parliament."

The report was commissioned by Holyrood and produced by former Scottish Law Commission chief executive Malcolm McMillan.

It was ordered to help inform any future consultation on the law officers' roles and functions.

Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain has a dual role as Scotland's chief prosecutor and the government's principal legal adviser – a role she performs as a Cabinet minister.

She has been criticised recently by Tory and Labour MSPs after files were released by the Crown

Office and Procurator Fiscal Service that showed she informed First Minister John Swinney of the charges against former SNP chief executive Peter Murrell last March – almost a year before the public were informed.

Holyrood has said it considers the current position is appropriate, and it will be for the next administration formed after the Holyrood election to consider any changes.

Scottish Tory leader Russell Findlay said the report "overlooks the many real and growing concerns about the lord advocate's dual role".

"The report suggests that a new website should be created to better inform the public about the lord advocate's roles – but that's nowhere near good enough.

"The dual role must be binned."



ADVISER: Chief prosecutor Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain.

Return to office not monitored

The Scottish Government is not monitoring civil servants to see if they are complying with a policy that requires them to work from the office at least two days a week, MSPs have been told.

Permanent Secretary Joe Griffin, who heads the civil service in Scotland, insisted the government was not "taking a register-style approach" to the policy.

Holyrood introduced the policy of having civil servants work in the office at least two days a week from last October.

Mr Griffin, who previously insisted the move to more office working was "the right thing to do", said an agreement with trade unions meant they could not monitor individual staff to see if they were complying.

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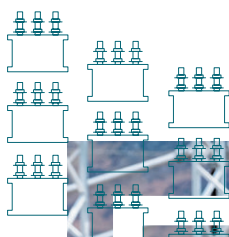
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Babies 'grasp the art of deception'

BY HELEN WILLIAM

Babies can grasp the art of deception even before their first birthday, a study has found.

Some are skilled in sneaky tactics such as exaggeration, denial, pretending not to hear an adult speak or hiding things by the time they are toddlers, researchers said.

About a quarter of children start to understand deception by 10 months, rising to half at 17 months, according to the findings in the University of Bristol-led study.

By the age of three, children become more proficient, creative and frequent fabricators, the study claimed.

Elena Hoicka, a Bristol University professor of education and the study's lead author, said: "It was fascinating to uncover how children's understanding and usage of deception evolves from a surprisingly young age and builds in their first years so they become quite adept and cunning 'little liars'."

Parents of more than 750 children aged up to 47 months from the UK, US, Australia and Canada were asked about their child's deception development.

The youngest child deception was seen in an eight-month-old baby, according to a parent.

Sneaky habits were also found to be frequent and

130 parents reported children engaged in 16 deception types before 47 months.

These included pretending not to hear to avoid answering or doing something, and also hiding things so others cannot have them, which was used by children who did not want to share their toys.

Denial, doing forbidden activities in secret, making an excuse, exaggeration and understatement were also among the deceptions used.

Pretending not to know something even if they were actually aware of it or pretending not to understand was sometimes the response when a child

was asked to help with a chore.

Fabrication by simply inventing something, pretending not to see when they are not supposed to be looking at something, withholding information and omission were other sneaky skills.

Children also deceived by restructuring responses by keeping just some parts of the truth in their answers but changing other elements.

Researchers believe the study will be useful for parents and educators, and provides insights into how children might later learn to deceive in more advanced ways as they get older.



STUDY: Little ones learn how to be sneaky.

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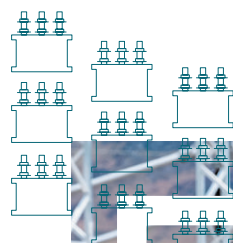
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Union is fined £265k for bin strike breach

BY JESS GLASS AND ALAN JONES

Trade union Unite has been fined £265,000 after breaching a High Court injunction over industrial action by refuse workers in Birmingham.

Unite members walked out in March 2025, leading to rubbish piling up on the streets.

The High Court order, which the union previously agreed to, prohibits the blocking of council rubbish collection vehicles at depots or on Birmingham city streets. Birmingham

City Council brought action over breaches of the injunction made in May 2025.

Unite has admitted the breaches, which included the blockading of vehicles at depot entrances and slow-walking next to vehicles, and apologised “unreservedly” in court documents for a hearing in October.

In a decision yesterday, Mrs Justice Jefford fined the union £265,000 for the breaches, including picketing outside of defined

areas. She said in a 21-page judgment: “I cannot accept that when Unite offered an assurance that protesting would be limited to the assembly areas, anyone giving instructions for that assurance to be offered would have intended that the protests could just be moved a few hundred metres away from the depots so that the vehicles could then be obstructed and delayed at a different point in their route.

“It would make a

nonsense of the order if, once the wagons had exited the depots, a few yards down the road their progress could be obstructed by protests outside the designated assembly areas.”

Mrs Justice Jefford added she accepted that Unite’s apology was genuine, but “was not offered until September 2025, some two months after the breaches had first occurred and the excuse for them was first offered”.

The judge also ordered

the union to pay £170,000 in costs within 14 days as an interim payment.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: “This is yet another pathetic attempt to intimidate workers and it won’t work.

“Unite will not allow these workers to pay the price for the council’s failings in their pay packets.

“Instead of using Thatcher’s anti-union laws to injunct the picket line and stop lawful protest, the council should honour the

deal scoped out at Acas. They walked out of the room, said they would be back with the deal in writing, and never returned.

“Rather than resolving the dispute, Birmingham City Council’s own figures have confirmed they have spent £33 million of Birmingham residents’ money trying to break the strike.

“It won’t be broken – these workers are fighting for council workers everywhere.”



PROTEST: Non-striking workers’ inability to collect rubbish led to huge piles of waste.

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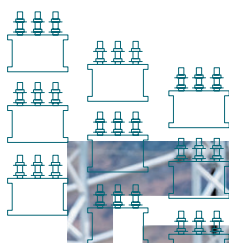
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Minister slaps down talk of rejoining EU

BY DAVID LYNCH

Britain should not be “plunging ourselves into a very long, protracted debate” about rejoining the European Union, the business and trade secretary has said.

Peter Kyle appeared to bat away calls from senior Labour figures that the party should campaign to again seek membership of the trade bloc.

London mayor Sir Sadiq Khan has argued in favour of making it a Labour manifesto commitment to

rejoin the EU. Health Secretary Wes Streeting in December suggested he favours the idea of a customs union with the bloc, while Wales’ first minister Eluned Morgan recently said she was an “absolute Euro-enthusiast” when asked about Sir Sadiq’s remarks.

But speaking to LBC, Mr Kyle signalled Labour would not move to rejoin.

Asked if he would support calls to rejoin the EU, he said: “I think right now we have the policy

that is right for the moment we’re in: make sure we have the reset, that we explore all the opportunities we have with the EU, with the US, and also looking at the additional trade deals we have got around the world.

“Rather than plunging ourselves into a very long, protracted debate about rejoining we need to be looking at all of the incredible opportunities there are out there for partnerships around the world.”



‘FOCUSED’: Peter Kyle dismissed calls from senior Labour figures, including Sadiq Khan, that the party should campaign to rejoin the EU.

Mr Kyle said he wanted to “focus on those deals that will deliver short-term, immediate growth into our economy”, like the US tech deal, which he said unlocked \$300 billion worth of trade.

He added: “This is what I’m really, really focused on. And when it comes to the EU, we will rebuild, we are rebuilding the

relationship, and we’re very open-minded about the alignment that will bring benefits to both EU countries and the UK.”

Though Mr Kyle is the latest senior government figure to slap down suggestions of rejoining the EU, ministers are seeking to work more closely with the bloc. Chancellor Rachel Reeves has set out plans to

follow more of the EU’s rules, saying closer alignment would help bring down prices and inflation.

She warned the UK risked being “stranded” between rival trading blocs unless it forged closer ties with Brussels, and said the UK’s fate as a country was “inescapably bound with that of Europe”.

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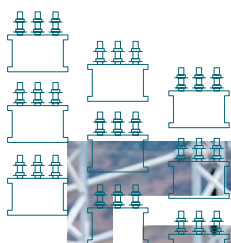
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substation.

This project is an important step in supporting future renewable generation connections and strengthening the local electricity network.

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Our project team will be on hand to talk through why a new site is needed, how locations are being assessed, and how community feedback will help guide next steps.

 **Learn more: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/news/news--views/2026/3/ssen-transmission-invites-local-community-to-consultation-event-on-proposed-new-132kv-substation-near-coupar-angus/>**

