



Delta variant, p34



Achingly meta, p47



The horror, p24

THE WEEK

- 3 **Leading article**
- 6 **Portrait of the Week**
- 9 **Diary** Life in isolation
Sajid Javid
- 10 **Politics** The tax-and-spend Tories
James Forsyth
- 11 **The Spectator's Notes**
What Dominic Cummings gets wrong
Charles Moore
- 14 **Barometer** Japan's Olympic history, nightclubs and racehorses
- 15 **Rod Liddle** Will England pull out of the World Cup?
- 19 **Douglas Murray**
Get ready for the Boring Twenties
- 21 **Ancient and modern**
No time for losers
- 27 **Sam Leith**
World gone lazy
- 29 **Letters** School reports, royal jubilees and the joy of Jeremy
- 30 **Any other business**
The clever radical who led the City's transformation
Martin Vander Weyer

- 12 **Party time**
The price of freedom
Kate Andrews
- 13 **Anthony Costello**
'The saddest thing I ever saw': a poem
- 14 **Now what do we do?**
The government's Covid optimism is fading fast
Katy Balls
- 16 **Fuelling the fire**
Lebanon is trapped in a nightmare of its own making
Paul Wood
- 20 **Game changer**
The uncomfortable truth about the Nazis and the Olympics
Nigel Farndale
- 22 **Dishing the dirt**
The case against organic food
Matt Ridley
- 24 **Losing the plot**
Real gardens are dying out
James Bartholomew
- 26 **Cricket notebook**
How 'Wooders' gave me my big break
Henry Blofeld

BOOKS & ARTS

BOOKS

- 32 **Damian Thompson**
The Storm is Upon Us, by Mike Rothschild; Pastels and Pedophiles, by Mia Bloom and Sophia Moskalenko
- 33 **Candy Neubert**
'lawn': a poem
- 34 **Hugh Thomson**
The Nile, by Terje Tveltd
Isabel Hardman
Heavy Light, by Horatio Clare
- 35 **Roger Lewis**
The Art of Living, by Stephen Bayley
- 36 **Dea Birkett**
The Cambridge Companion to the Circus, edited by Gillian Arrighi and Jim Davis
- 37 **Sarah Ditum**
The Great Mistake, by Jonathan Lee
Nicholas Shakespeare
One Blade of Grass, by Henry Shukman
- 38 **Madeleine Feeny**
China Room, by Sunjeev Sahota
John Maier
Drunk, by Edward Slingerland
- 40 **Max Décharné**
Two Hitlers and a Marilyn, by Adam Andrusier
David Patrikarakos
Beirut 2020, by Charif Majdalani

Cover by Morten Morland. **Drawings** by Michael Heath, Castro, RGI, Tim Bales, Paul Wood, Bernie, Nick Newman, Robert Thompson, Grizelda, Matt Percival, K.J. Lamb, Wilbur. www.spectator.co.uk **Editorial and advertising** The Spectator, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP, Tel: 020 7961 0200, Fax: 020 7681 3773, Email: letters@spectator.co.uk (for publication); advertising@spectator.co.uk (advertising); Advertising enquiries: 020 7961 0128 **Subscription and delivery queries** Spectator Subscriptions Dept., 17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 3DH; Tel: 0330 3330 050; Email: customerhelp@subscriptions.spectator.co.uk; **Rates** for a basic annual subscription in the UK: £111; Europe: £185; Australia: A\$279; New Zealand: A\$349; and £195 in all other countries. To order, go to www.spectator.co.uk/A263A or call 0330 3330 050 and quote A151A; **Newsagent queries** Spectator Circulation Dept, 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP; Tel: 020 7961 0200, Fax: 020 7681 3773, Email: dbrown@spectator.co.uk; **Distributor** Marketforce, 161 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9AP. Tel. 0203 787 9001. www.marketforce.co.uk **Vol 346; no 10,065** © The Spectator (1828) Ltd. ISSN 0038-6952 The Spectator is published weekly by The Spectator (1828) Ltd at 22 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HP
Editor: Fraser Nelson