



Editor: Alex Pleasants

Government Stuff

A big one from across the pond. The US government has sued **Apple** in a [landmark antitrust case](#) over accused monopolisation of the smartphone market. **The Verge** with [five key takeaways](#).

DCMS Secretary **Lucy Frazer** is '[minded to refer](#)' the **Telegraph** takeover bid by the UAE-backed **RedBird IMI** to the **Competition and Markets Authority**.

The G7 countries, including the UK and USA, have [signed an agreement](#) to work together to harness the potential of AI to drive growth.

Dame Mary Archer, former chair of the **Science Museum**, will lead a [government review](#) of the use of public money by **Arts Council England**.

DCMS has also selected a [panel of nine experts](#), including **Sir Peter Bazalgette** and **Siobhan Kenny**, to advise on the **Beeb**'s future funding.

Intel is to [receive \\$8.5bn in grants](#) and \$11bn in loans from the US government to produce cutting-edge semiconductors.

Culture Stuff

Arts & Culture

The **Mayor of London** has announced [the next two artworks](#) set for Trafalgar Square's *Fourth Plinth* in 2026 and 2028.

Some of **Damien Hirst**'s famous formaldehyde animal artworks which were dated to the 1990s... [were made in 2017](#). Gulp.

A new report from the **Creative PEC** shows that the UK's creative service exports [continued to rise in 2020-21](#) despite COVID and *you know what*.

The Serpentine has published its [4th annual breakdown](#) of the implications of AI for the cultural sector.

Artist **Anselm Kiefer** has [been awarded](#) *The Queen Sonja Lifetime Achievement Award*, the world's most important prize for printmaking.

A new **Banksy** depicting a damaged tree [has popped up](#) in North London and... of course!... It was [defaced pretty soon after](#).

Design

Heatherwick Studio has [unveiled designs](#) for its first building in South America.

And its spiralling [plant-covered terraces](#) for a new Hollywood tower from **Foster + Partners**.

Europe's largest LED screen ceiling has [been unveiled](#) at the refurbished **Printworks** complex in Manchester. Imagine watching TikTok on it. Lose days of your life.

Theatre & Dance

James Corden is [returning to the boards](#) in London in the world premiere of **Joe Penhall's** *The Constituent* at the **Old Vic**.

And the *Wizard of Oz* is [returning to the West End](#) this summer. Why? Because, because, because, because.

Classical Music & Opera

The **London Philharmonic Orchestra** kicked off a four-part backstage documentary series on **Sky Arts** [this week](#).

Tourism & Heritage

Visitor numbers for the UK's leading attractions [remain 11% down](#) on pre-pandemic levels, says **ALVA**. The **British Museum** [regained top spot](#) for most-visited.

Big list, little list, protected list. Berlin's techno scene has [been awarded](#) **UNESCO** World

Heritage status.

A treasure hunter in Dorset has dug up the [largest golden nugget](#) ever found in England. Ker-ching.

Press, Books & Libraries

Media company **Gannett**, publisher of titles including **USA Today**, is to [stop using content](#) from global newswire **AP** for the first time in a century.

Off-platform revenues on mobile [fell by 86%](#) in the final quarter of 2023 among a sample of UK online news publishers.

Adweek on how **The Guardian** is [quietly thriving](#) under CEO **Anna Bateson**.

Neurodiversity and the impact of AI were some of [the key themes](#) coming out of this year's **London Book Fair**.

How lovely. **The Atlantic** picks its [136 great American novels](#) of the past century.

Exhibitions and Events

London Original Print Fair, London's longest-running art fair, is [open this weekend](#) at Somerset House.

The **Royal College of Art** has a [couple of public exhibitions](#) this week showcasing student designs related to ocean-related issues.

West Dean College opens its new Bloomsbury campus in April with [100 short courses](#) in arts and crafts, ranging from the history of furniture to writing s*x scenes. I blush!

Creative Industries & Tech Stuff

Film & TV

The Crown has received the [most nominations](#) for this year's **BAFTA TV Awards** - and it's a [first ever nod](#) for our **David Tennant**.

Surrey's **Shepperton Studios** is now the [second-largest film studio](#) in the whole wide world.

The name's Bond... **Aaron Taylor-Johnson**. Rumours are a-swirling that the British actor has been [offered the role of 007](#). He chats to **Rolling Stone** about being, like me, [a leading man](#).

French TV bosses have [sung the praises](#) of UK broadcasters teaming up to create **Freely**. '*C'est magnifique!*' they probably said.

By order of the *Peaky Blinders*, a film sequel will begin shooting [later this year](#), including one **Cillian Murphy**.

Fashion

British fashion label **Ted Baker** is set to [go into administration](#), threatening almost 1,000 jobs.

French luxury house **Hermès** is being sued in California over claims it only sells its famous Birkin handbag to ['worthy' customers](#). Had an order pending for months now...

Music & Audio

Spotify paid [\\$9 billion in royalties](#) to artists in 2023, according to its latest annual *Loud & Clear* report.

Joe Rogan's podcast pulls in almost [3x more listeners](#) on **Spotify** than the second-most popular.

There's been a [400% surge](#) in mental health cases among musicians and performing artists since COVID, according to **BAPAM**.

Coldplay (again), **Raye** and **Chase & Status** [are to headline](#) this year's **Radio 1 Big Weekend** in Luton.

The **BPI** is [threatening legal action](#) against voice cloning site **Voicify** if it doesn't stop enabling users to make unauthorised music deepfakes.

Boyz-N-The Hollywood Walk of Fame. **Dr Dre** has been [honoured with a star](#).

UK licensing company **PPL** is marking the big 9-0 with a new £1m annual fund to '[give back to music](#)'.

Youth Music has announced a [new £1.5m Energiser Fund](#) for early years creativity - and found that 20% of toddlers enjoy rock music. Barely Talking Heads.

Gaming

Epic Games has now [got the backing](#) of the big guns **Meta**, **Microsoft** and **X** in its battle with **Apple**.

The Guardian takes us [back to the 90s](#) when the **Trocadero** in London was the centre of the video game universe. Simpler times.

Tech

Well, well, well. What do we have here then? **Apple** and **Google** are [in discussions](#) to bring the latter's generative AI to **iPhones**. **Business Insider** on what this [could mean](#).

On that note... **Apple** has also quietly unveiled details of its own [MM1 AI model](#). **Wired** says it shows a sleeping giant [rising from its slumber](#).

But wait! **Microsoft** is hiring **Inflection** CEO and **DeepMind** co-founder **Mustafa Suleyman** [to lead Microsoft AI](#) (along with most of Inflection's key staff). They're paying [\\$650m in licensing](#), too.

Reddit had a rather successful IPO, [opening up 38%](#) on the New York stock exchange. Share sales put the value of the platform [at \\$6.4bn](#).

A quadriplegic person who was the first to be implanted with a **Neuralink** brain chip has been shown [playing chess on a laptop](#) with his mind. Quite amazing.

Nvidia has just shown off its new, next-generation GPU which will be the [world's most powerful chip for AI](#).

And they (**Nvidia**) are on the top spot of **Fast Company's** list of the [world's most innovative companies](#) in 2024. Chips ahoy!

[Nearly half of UK families](#) lack the digital skills to fully participate in modern digital society, according to research led by the **University of Liverpool**.

A leading psychologist has [quit her advisory role](#) with **Meta** over their failure to remove self-harm content from **Instagram**.

The UK had [the largest rise](#) in patent applications across Europe last year, according to the **European Patent Office**.

Saudi Arabia is reportedly working on a [\\$40bn AI investment fund](#) with VC firm **Andreessen Horowitz**.

Vodafone is flogging [its Italian business](#) to **Swisscom** for €8bn - and **Three** (who Vodafone is looking to buy) has posted its [first annual loss](#) since 2010.

Humane has previewed [new upcoming features](#) for its **Ai Pin**, coming mid-April, including AI nutrition and AI-powered fit checks. Could help a few people...

AI startup **Cohere** is seeking [a \\$5bn valuation](#) in its latest fundraising round. But **The Information** reports that annual revenue is currently only [at around \\$13m](#).

Startup Coalition has launched its first [ClimateTech Index](#), showing that the top 1,000 UK climate-tech startups are worth a combined £26bn.

A UK startup is [sending 4K cameras](#) to the **International Space Station** to beam back HD footage of Earth. Zoom in. I'm waving. Ok zoom out now. ZOOM OUT.

Appointments & Movers

[Max Taylor](#) has been named CEO of **Vodafone UK**; [Christopher Smith](#) has been reappointed as chair of the **AHRC** for another three years; [Emma Barnett](#) is joining the presenting team of **Radio 4's Today** show; **Sony Music's** [Charlotte Edgeworth](#) and rapper Guvna B are the new co-chairs of **Youth Music**; [Amanda Gray](#) has been named chair of **The Photographers' Gallery**; **Warhol Museum** director [Patrick Moore](#) is stepping down; [Mark Wigglesworth](#) has become chief conductor of **Birmingham Symphony Orchestra**; [Stu Bergen](#) has been named interim CEO of **Deezer**; actor [Brian Cox](#) has been named as a patron of **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**

Ed Stuff

Talked **GB News**, **Ofcom** and impartiality in a [House of Lords debate](#) - and spoke in another about encouraging [inward philanthropic investment](#) into the UK tech sector.

On tonight's **Times Radio** show, Ed will be chatting with MP **Maria Miller** and scaling sartorial peaks with Welsh tailor and fashion designer **Timothy Everest**. [See you at 7pm.](#)

And Finally...

A woman robbed a bakery in the middle of the night in Australia, was gonna leave, and then thought: *Namaste here and [do some yoga in front of the security cameras](#)*. DOUGH!!!



Not put off by all the puns? [Subscribe here](#).

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe here](#).

Copyright © 2024 Ed Vaizey's weekly newsletter, All rights reserved.

Ed Vaizey's weekly newsletter.

Our mailing address is:

Ed Vaizey's weekly newsletter

London, England -----

United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

