



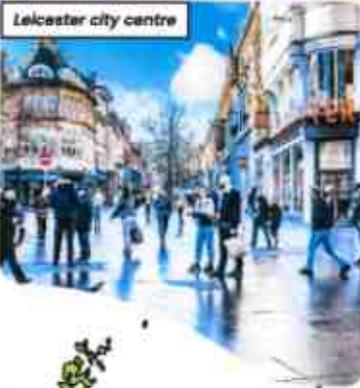
## BLACKPOOL

### Odyssey lights up the Golden Mile

The biggest standalone light installation ever created for Blackpool Illuminations is now on display. Odyssey is 11 metres high and features six towers, three of which are based on sea gods from Greek mythology. It has taken over two years to design and build, thanks to international designer Jack Irving and a team of computer scientists from Lancaster University. Visitors can get up close to the lights and enjoy themed projection shows based on undiscovered sea creatures. The attraction, which is free to visit, will remain in place until 2 January 2023.



## LEICESTER AND BIRMINGHAM



### First "super-diverse" cities in the UK

Leicester and Birmingham have become the first "super-diverse" cities in the UK, says the 2021 Census from the Office for National Statistics. That means most people living there are from black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds. A total of 58% of people in Leicester are from minority ethnic backgrounds, while the figure is 51% for Birmingham. The census also showed that there has been a big drop in the number of people calling themselves Christian in England and Wales. Only 46.2% said they now identified as Christian – see p2 for more on that story.

## SWANSEA



### His Dark Materials exhibition opens

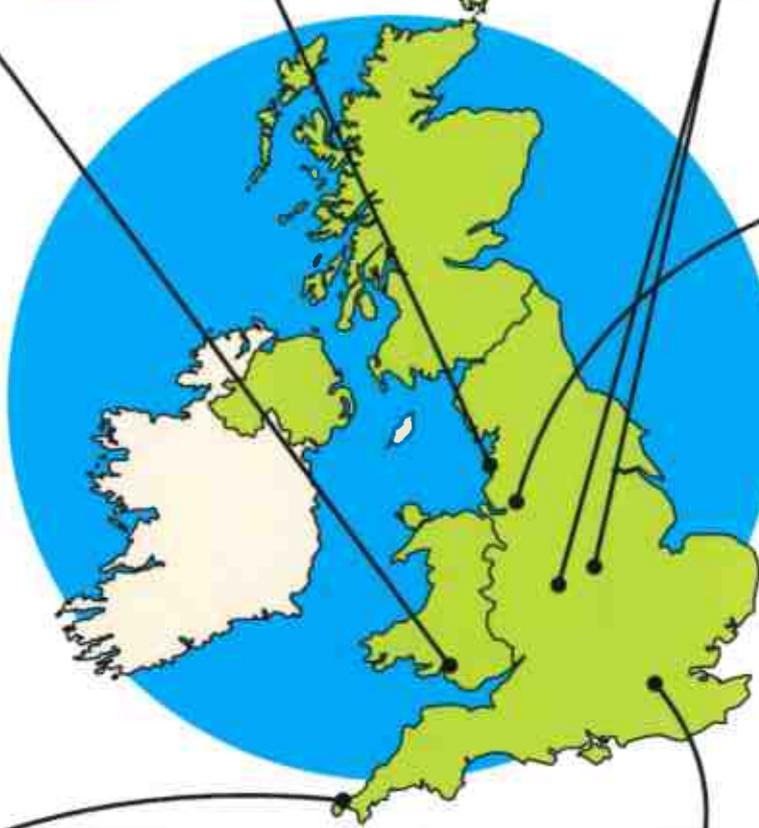
Props and costumes from the hit TV series *His Dark Materials* have gone on display at Glynn Vivian Art Gallery. The show, which was filmed in Wales, tells the story of Lyra Belacqua who lives in a parallel universe with animals called daemons. It was based on the book by Philip Pullman. The new, free exhibition will feature iconic props such as the "truth telling" alethiometer and the amber spyglass, as well as large set pieces and visual effects footage. The exhibition is running from now until April 2023. Visit [www.glynnvivian.co.uk](http://www.glynnvivian.co.uk).

## MERSEYSIDE



### Kitten hitches a lift in Asda lorry

A little kitten hitched a lift under the bonnet of an Asda lorry all the way from Southampton to Merseyside – a 250-mile (400km) journey! The black and white cat was only discovered when the driver stopped to make his delivery at the supermarket. Thankfully the RSPCA was on hand to help. The charity said: "We can't imagine how frightened he [the kitten] must have been travelling down the M6 at 60mph next to a big noisy engine." Staff at the charity have since nicknamed the feline Yorlde and are appealing to find his owners. The charity has also urged people to check their car during the winter months, as animals often climb into them for shelter.



## ST IVES

### Britain's happiest place to live

St Ives in Cornwall has been named Britain's happiest place to live in 2022. More than 21,000 people across the UK were asked how they feel about where they live as part of Rightmove's Happy at Home survey. The seaside town came out top, with residents giving it high scores for community spirit and how comfortable they feel to be themselves there. Galashiels in the Scottish Borders came in second place, with Woodbridge in the east of England in third. Anglesey was found to be the happiest place to live in Wales.



## BOW

### 'Play space' removed

Chisenhale Primary has seen its 'play space' removed by the council, despite pupils campaigning to keep it. A street outside the school was closed off to traffic and turned into a play area for children during the Covid lockdowns. But, the mayor of Tower Hamlets, Lutfur Rahman, later said he wanted to open it back up to transport. Last week, children were left stunned when they arrived at school to see the wooden structure protecting the area had gone. Parents argue there is now nowhere safe for their children to play. Mr Rahman says the council is looking at other safety measures, such as zebra crossings and traffic wardens.



Pupils campaigned to keep the pop-up playground