

## Nokia to unveil new phone you can fix yourself

NEW smartphones from Nokia and a range of Chinese manufacturers are set to go on display today at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) trade show opens in Barcelona.

The annual industry event sees mobile firms showcase their new and current devices to the public.

Nokia has already confirmed it will be displaying three new handsets, including the G22, which houses several repairable parts owners can fix themselves if they so wish.

Elsewhere, the show is set to be dominated by devices from Chinese manufacturers, with Honor, Xiaomi, Oppo and others all in attendance.

Reports suggest a number of foldable smartphones are likely to be announced at the event.

However, there are unlikely to be any new products on show from several industry heavyweights, including Samsung, which announced its new flagship Galaxy S23 series of smartphones at a standalone event last month, alongside a new laptop range.

Fellow smartphone giant Apple does not attend MWC, while Google also does not use the event to announce new phones.

Tablets and wearables are also expected to be prominent at the trade show, which traditionally attracts thousands of visitors over its four days.

Industry expert Paolo Pescatore, from PP Foresight, said: "All the major players have unveiled new devices or plan to do so at separate events."

"This show represents a key platform for rival disruptive Asian players to demonstrate their capabilities to a global audience."

"The show floor will be awash with demos, vendors selling network solutions and telcos seeking to bring immersive content to life."

## Hancock sets up own TV company

FORMER health secretary Matt Hancock has set up his own TV company after appearances on two reality TV shows.

The West Suffolk MP, who lost the Tory whip over his appearance on I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!, has already said he will stand down at the next General Election.

The creation of television programming and broadcasting firm Greenhazel suggests Mr Hancock hopes for more TV opportunities.

Mr Hancock is listed as the sole director of the firm, which was registered with Companies House last month at an address in Newmarket, Suffolk.

His stint in the Australian jungle on the ITV reality show earned him £320,000 last year, of which £10,000 was donated to charity.

He also earned £45,000 for taking part in Channel 4's Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins.

Mr Hancock was health secretary for nearly three years but resigned in June 2021 after it emerged he had broken his own Covid-19 guidance by kissing and embracing aide Gina Coladangelo in his office.

Ms Coladangelo greeted Mr Hancock when he left the jungle in third place and was by his side in the audience of ITV skating show Dancing On Ice earlier this month.

Mr Hancock is due to give evidence to an inquiry in the summer into the government's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Comedian brands government's response to austerity levels as 'unlawful'

COMEDIAN Dane Baptiste has said the UK Government's response to the austerity levels it has "executed" is "unlawful" and "immoral".

The 38-year-old has been announced as the latest ambassador for the Big Issue Group. Following his appointment, Baptiste warned of the possibility of homelessness for an increasing number of British people as a result of the current cost of living crisis and risk of poverty.

"I really want to help people who feel they may be close to, or experiencing, sleeping rough or homelessness, that they're not alone," he said. "Homelessness might become a reality for more of the British population than they would care to acknowledge."

"The ramifications of the austerity that has been executed by our current government and has been over the last decade or so is

massively damaging to all of us. For me, it's unlawful. It's definitely immoral.

"And those same policies, if unchecked, are going to start affecting those of you who consider yourselves productive parts of society as well."

"So I want to help people to come together collectively for a solution, which benefits the majority."

Baptiste, who has appeared on Live At The Apollo, Mock The Week and 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown, became the first Black comedian to be nominated for the award for best newcomer at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards in 2014.

As part of his new role as a Big Issue ambassador, which sees him join the likes of actors Christopher Eccleston and Daniel

Mays, and presenter and architect George Clarke, Baptiste spent time with Big Issue vendor George Anderson on his pitch outside the BBC's Broadcasting House.

Baptiste added: "If I am going to make effective observations about our current social state, then I need to be involved."

"If I'm going to opine on an issue, I really want to know about it."

## Clan spotlight



Two portraits of important members of the Chief of Clan Grant's household are now on display in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh. The oil paintings by Richard Waitt were commissioned in 1713 by Alexander, the Laird of Grant, as part of a larger series depicting prominent clan members

Picture Duncan McGlynn

# Papa Westray islanders call for referendum on giant fish farm

By Vicky Allan

PAPA Westray islanders are calling for a referendum on whether more fish farms should be allowed around the remote island.

Their call follows the decision by Orkney Islands Council last year to approve one of the largest salmon farms in Scotland in the waters to the south of the isle, where the Papay Sound already hosts six fish farms.

An opinion poll, conducted after an open public meeting on the island, found most of those who participated would welcome a local vote on the matter, and that the majority want Scotland's Environment Minister Mairi McAllan to call the East Mockett decision in for further examination.

Wendy Elves, a member of the Save Papay: No East Mockett Fish Farm group, said: "We were not properly heard by Orkney Islands Council and we are continuing our campaign to halt the East Mockett fish farm."

"We already have six farms around us that are inshore and we say, 'Enough is enough'."

"Industrial fish farming impacts our quality of life on the island."

"The people who have taken the time to find out what is going on want a proper vote on this issue. That means a local plebiscite or a referendum."

"The opinion poll at the meeting was conducted properly and fairly. Until that point, no more fish farms should be allowed."

It comes in the wake of the group last November sending an open letter to the Environment Minister calling for a moratorium on further fish farm

development around Scotland.

The East Mockett salmon farm, planned by Canadian company Cooke Aquaculture, will include six cages with a 160-metre circumference and host a biomass of 3,850 tonnes.

The questionnaire was presented at an open meeting hosted by the campaign group, and of those who answered it, 75 per cent agreed that "an island plebiscite or referendum" was needed "on whether new fish farms in coastal water around the island should do ahead".

Last September, Orkney Islands Council approved the East Mockett fish farm but island campaigners maintain they were not properly consulted and 95% of those polled also agreed the council's decision to approve the farm had "failed to take into account the cumulative impact of industrial fish farming around Papa Westray".

Papa Westray has a population of just 85 and 20 people participated in the poll.

A spokesman for Orkney Islands Council said: "A planning application for a fish farm at East Mockett was reported to a meeting of Planning Committee on September 8, 2022. Objectors were present at the meeting and given time to present their views to the committee, as was the applicant."

"In line with relevant regulations, Papa Westray Community Council was consulted, and a consultation response was provided."

"No objections were received from any statutory consultation body, and the application was approved."

A Cooke Aquaculture spokesman responded: "We have listened to the valid points raised by the Papa Westray



Islanders have protested against further salmon farming on Papa Westray

**“Industrial fish farming impacts our quality of life on the island**

Community Council and Papa Westray residents and we will continue to engage with them and ensure this new farm site is compliant with all appropriate regulations and best practices.

"As one of the largest employers in Orkney and the Northern Isles, we are an intrinsic part of the coastal and rural communities in which we live, and we take pride in our work."

"East Mockett will be positioned around 3km offshore of the nearest beach on the west coast of Papa Westray."

"In September, the Orkney Islands Council Planning Committee accepted and agreed unanimously that the proposed salmon farm was rigorously assessed by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, which raised no issues or objections to the site."

The Save Papay group also expressed disappointment it still had received no response, three months on, to its letter calling for a moratorium on fish farm development around Scotland.

Ms Elves said: "We're deeply disappointed that the Environment Minister has not had the time or the courtesy to respond to our very serious

request for a moratorium, based on the recommendations of a committee of the Scottish Parliament in 2018."

"We are prepared to meet her in Edinburgh to explain why the East Mockett plan, which is an onshore fish farm, not an offshore one, is so damaging to the environment."

"We understand salmon fish farming has become an important export for Scotland, but that does not mean ministers, politicians and civil servants in Edinburgh can simply turn a blind eye to the desecration of wonderful places such as Papa Westray."

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "Primary responsibility for dealing with planning applications and local planning matters rests with the relevant planning authority. The aquaculture sector is an important part of the Scottish economy, and we recognise it must be delivered and developed sustainably, with appropriate regulatory frameworks that help minimise and address environmental impacts."

The minister, the spokesman said, will shortly respond directly to the group in full.

## Student gamblers have trouble paying for food - and betting affects grades

A QUARTER of UK student gamblers may be experiencing harm and half said betting has affected their university experience, a study has found.

The survey of 2,003 students at UK universities was conducted in December and found 71 per cent had gambled in the last 12 months.

Of these, 28% were found to be at "moderate risk" and 24% exhibited "problem gambling" behaviour.

Half of respondents said gambling

had impacted their university experience, with 13% having trouble paying for food, 10% missing lectures and tutorials, 10% admitting betting affected their assignments and grades, and 9% struggling to pay bills or for accommodation.

Participants were questioned on their gambling habits, spending, influences, impacts, sources of funds and help-seeking.

The survey included the

short-form Problem Gambling Severity Index: a widely used measure of "problem gambling" in the UK population - which allowed researchers to understand the level of risk experienced by students.

The poll by research company Censuswide was commissioned by education charity Ygam and Gamstop, the national online self-exclusion service.

It found 45% of student gamblers were unaware of the support

available to them from their universities.

Some 48% said they gambled to make money but just 11% reported winning money in an average week.

One-third of student gamblers said they splurged £11-£20 per week on bets, while 23% spent £21-£50 and 13% spent £51-£100.

Ygam chief executive Dr Jane Rigby said: "We can now see that not only are a large percentage of

the student population gambling on a regular basis, many of them are doing so in a way that may cause them to experience harm. The data further emphasises the importance of educating our young people on the risks associated with gambling."

"It is crucial universities engage and take this issue seriously. We aim to work closely with many more universities to ensure they can help prevent the harms and support their students when they need it."