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Fireworks and revellers greet the

James Gillespie and Rebecca Myers

THE world stood still for a second last night as the new year dawned to mass celebrations and relief to be rid of 2016. After an unusually bleak year for celebrity deaths, war and terrorism, many were hoping for better times in 2017.

The lorry terrorist attacks in Berlin and Nice cast a shadow over the public events, with more than 2,000 armed officers on the streets and Tube in London. Even the Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, tweeted that he was "on patrol".

Like London, many capital cities blocked roads with barriers to prevent a repeat of the lorry attacks. In Berlin itself, a security cordon surrounded the Brandenburg Gate.

In Paris, more than 10,300 police, soldiers and firefighters were on duty, with 600,000 people expected to watch fireworks on the Champs-Élysées. Some of the 17,000 police officers on duty in the Turkish city of Istanbul were disguised as Santa Claus and street vendors.

Despite the fear of terrorism, the world seized its annual chance to get out onto the streets and party, beginning with the tiny Pacific communities of Samoa, Tonga and Kiribati. It was still 10am in Britain when they welcomed in 2017.

An hour later and the new year dawned in New Zealand, where Auckland became the first big city to celebrate, with fireworks fired from the 1,000ft Sky Tower in the city centre.

In Australia, Sydney paid homage to Prince and David Bowie — who both died in 2016 — by playing a music medley inspired by the singers, while seven tons of fireworks lit up the harbour sky, with the opera house and bridge providing the traditional backdrop.

In London, more than 100,000 people were expected to line the banks of the Thames for the 12-minute firework display at midnight.

Everyone had to wait an additional second for the year to turn as scientists at the National Physical Laboratory



Security was tight in central London, above and top left, and at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. However, concerns about terrorism failed to deter revellers from celebrating the new year in Sydney, where

in Teddington, southwest London, added a "leap second" to allow for the fact that the Earth is spinning more slowly. It meant that the 10-second countdown to midnight lasted for 11 seconds.

Among those preparing for the big night in London was Amelia James, who said she was glad to see an end to 2016.

"It started tough and ended badly," she said, observing that the result of the American presidential election had been most disappointing. "Donald Trump's the biggest idiot of all," she said.

For his part, Trump last night tweeted: "Happy New Year to all, including to my many enemies."

All the £10 tickets to watch the Thames fireworks sold out, but people without tickets had the option of a 360-degree live broadcast by the BBC.

For the first time, viewers could control the camera angle by tilting and panning on a tablet or mobile device, or using the arrow keys on a laptop or PC.

Robbie Williams headlined the BBC's New Year's Eve concert, while the Scottish singer-songwriter Paolo Nutini led the musical celebrations in Edinburgh, where the traditional Hogmanay festivities are spread over three days.

They began with a torchlit parade through the city on Friday, and more than 75,000

revellers were expected to pack the city centre last night to watch a laser and fireworks display from the city's castle.

The events will end this morning with the "Loony Dook" as people in fancy dress plunge into the River Forth.

In Cologne, 1,500 police were drafted in after a mass outbreak of sexual assaults

by migrants on German women last New Year's Eve.

If anyone missed the chance to celebrate last night, they can still get in on the act. Hull is holding a fireworks display this evening to mark the beginning of its year as UK City of Culture 2017.

Additional reporting: James Walker

Soar in use of anti-lice drugs

Continued from page 1
chemicals in 2006 but this increased to 467kg in 2016.

Since 2002, salmon farmers have carried out almost 8,500 separate chemical treatments with nearly four tonnes of chemicals dumped into the seas around Scotland.

The treatments used by Scottish salmon farms included cypermethrin, a pesticide that was abandoned in 2012 after sea-lice developed resistance. Scientific studies have suggested that it impairs fertility in wild salmon.

Sepa records show that just over two tonnes of azamethiphos, an active ingredient in Salmosan, a popular delousing pesticide, has been used in the past decade by salmon farmers. A paper published last month by scientists in Canada raised concern that azamethiphos poses a serious health risk to marine wildlife; tests on lobsters found repeated exposure can impair the nervous system and cause death.

However, Scott Landsburgh, chief executive of Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation, the industry's umbrella body, said all medicines were applied under

strict supervision and monitored closely by Sepa.

"Farmed salmon production has been higher in some years since 2002 and medicine amounts have responded accordingly. Salmon farmers use safe and fully approved veterinary medicines to support fish health. All medicines are applied under strict veterinary supervision and application is tightly regulated with Sepa's official consent."

Efforts are underway to reduce the use of chemicals to control sea lice, which can cause serious fin damage, skin erosion and deep, open wounds that are prone to infection.

Scottish Sea Farms, one of the country's leading producers of farmed salmon, recently bought a Thermolicer, a £4m delousing device. Fish are pumped into the machine and pass through heated water that kills lice.

Dr Ralph Bickerdike, SSF head of fish health, said last month: "This has been a real breakthrough in the fight against sea lice — having access to a new tool, which works in a completely different way to our other control measures, is a significant

achievement for the Scottish industry."

There are hopes that the method could help reduce the millions of fish that perish annually during factory farming.

The industry is also under pressure from campaigners who are lobbying supermarkets to take tougher action against salmon farms where lice infestations are high.

In the run up to Christmas, Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland challenged Co-Op and Sainsbury's to stop selling Scottish farmed salmon from regions in the west Highlands and Islands where sea lice infestation is "rampant".

A spokesman for Sepa said the agency imposes limits on the amounts of chemicals or medicines used by fish farmers. He added: "For substances such as sea louse medicines used by fish farmers, Sepa aims to ensure that non-target animals such as shellfish are protected beyond the footprint of the fish farm. Where we find evidence that the conditions controlling medicine use have been breached, then this will be dealt with in accordance with our enforcement policy."

'Public needs to be more vigilant about terror'

Continued from page 1

weapons. Isis includes people who were part of Saddam Hussein's former weapons programme and it is assumed that it has access to Iraqi and Libyan storage sites of chemical weapons.

The Sunday Times revealed last month that the threat of a possible chemical or dirty bomb attack has been highlighted to UK firms by Pool Re, the government-backed terrorism insurance company. The assessment also warned that Isis might use drones to launch a dirty bomb attack.

Wallace warned that as Isis was driven out of its strongholds in the Middle East, returning jihadists would pose a growing threat to Britain.

About 800 Britons went to fight in Syria and just under half have returned. Around 100

have been killed. In 2015 a further 150 were prevented from travelling to the war zone. Wallace said the figure for 2016 would be "very similar".

"The big concern is if Mosul collapses and all the other bases of Isis collapse. We know there are a significant number of [Britons] fighting for Isis in Syria. They will probably want to come home," he said.

"There will also be those people who wanted to go out there but no longer can get there. Their frustration may boil over."

As well as terrorists grooming home-grown jihadists, Wallace also warned that hostile foreign states — along with crime gangs — were more actively trying to steal secrets: "There are well over 100 intelligence officers of other powers in the United Kingdom who are

trying to corrupt our systems and corrupt our citizens."

He said the security services had detected a "growth" in "the link between organised crime and counterterrorism... If you're a terrorist in the UK, you might try to source your weapons from organised crime. We're seeing a worrying crossover there."

The minister, who served in military intelligence in Northern Ireland, said he wanted to see the same levels of public awareness about the threat as "when the IRA were doing bombing campaigns in the 1970s and 1980s".

"If you work in government or someone is asking questions about your business, or if you work in the defence industry and someone is more curious than they should be, report it," he said.

"If you are working in an airport and you see odd behaviour or bags not being checked, say something."

Wallace also said people and businesses needed to do far more to protect themselves from cyber-criminals.

"Too many people don't have antivirus software on their computer. Too many people don't change their passwords regularly. If you do those two things, GCHQ says you will reduce your vulnerability by 80%," he said.

"Our companies and our banks are not, in my view, taking it seriously enough. They should realise that reputational damage of data breaches not only affects their business, it affects their share price and their customers, so it is really time that some of these people took it more seriously."

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