



THE SUNDAY TIMES



20 best secret villages

HOME



'I have the devil in me'

Carol Vorderman

MAGAZINE

721 children in rogue surgeon investigation

- Operations left patients with deformities
- Great Ormond Street accused of failings

Shan-Li Chen Health Editor

Great Ormond Street Hospital is conducting an urgent review into the cases of 721 children treated by the same surgeon.

Patients were left with life-changing injuries including amputations, permanent deformities and chronic pain, a Sunday Times investigation has revealed.

At least 22 children who underwent limb reconstruction surgery are known to have been harmed. 13 of those cases were classed as severe. One of the victims was just four months old.

One father said his six-year-old child had suffered "terrible pain" after being treated by Vasek Jabbar, a consultant surgeon who was described by colleagues as "cancer" and "mad".

The father said: "We tried to raise our concerns repeatedly through the official complaints procedure, and I copied the clinical director into every email, but heard nothing back." When the hospital first looked into it, he felt as though "everything was being brushed under the carpet", he said. "That was my opening."



'HE LEFT OUR SON IN AGONY'

NEEDS TO GO

Great Ormond Street apologised to families and said it was making improvements. A spokesman said: "We will ensure that all the findings of this review are addressed at once, and we will reflect on any wider lessons around our culture."

"We have contacted all patients and families who have been impacted and where harm has been identified, discussed their cases with them under our duty of candour. To all of them, we wish to express our sincere apologies."

seen by The Sunday Times, made damning findings about the "life-threatening" orthopaedic department where Jabbar worked.

It described the NHS trust as being run like a "publican organisation" and consultants including Jabbar and co-operatives including "wasteful", "unacceptable" and "bureaucratic waste". The review found that in recent years, patient safety was repeatedly put at risk by "top-down" consultants who belittled junior colleagues.

Founded in 1852, Great Ormond Street is considered one of the top children's hospitals in the world, at the forefront of medical research and paediatric care. It treats about 10,000 children every year.

The review into the 721 cases, covering the period since 2015, was begun by the Ladbroke hospital this year and carried on Jabbar, who has moved to the USA after a six-month sabbatical on sick pay. He declined to comment last night. Jabbar carried out leg amputations and leg-lengthening operations on children born with congenital deformities, as a result of disease. These operations involve using a circular steel frame and wires, which contracted as bones in

PARADISE WEDDING FOR MR BATES



Mr Alan Bates, 70, the *Poirot* TV icon, celebrated his 70th birthday with his partner Suzanne Sanderson, 68, on Pucker Island, the Caribbean retreat of Sir Richard Branson, who of *Richard* at the ceremony Page 2

'Let Ukraine use British missiles to hit Russia'

Harry Yorke and Larisa Brown

Britain must allow Ukraine to use its long-range Storm Shadow missiles to attack Russian bases, even without US backing, Great Shapps, the former Tory defence secretary, has urged.

He said the "devastating" Russian attack last week on a military academy and hospital in Poltava, central Ukraine, which killed 48 people, showed it was "no longer credible" to deny Ukraine use of the weapons where they would be most effective.

Bill Ferris, the director of the CIA, appeared to take a similar position yesterday, arguing that the US and its allies should not be "intimidated" by President Putin's nuclear threats. Speaking at an event in London alongside Richard Moore, the chief of MI6, Ferris revealed that in 2022 the US believed there was a "genuine risk" of the Russian leader using a tactical nuclear weapon as his country lost ground in the battlefield.

However, he said this did not mean the West could "afford to be intimidated" by that over-riding or bullying "and faced at a potential shift in US thinking on long-range weapons."

Writing for The Sunday Times, Shapps said US policy meant the Ukrainians were being asked to "fight with one arm tied behind their backs". He said: "Instead the UK must issue a straightforward warning to Putin. If you continue to invade our, women and children with global bombs launched from Russia, then we will lead the rest of the world to authorize our long-range missiles to take out

Continued on page 2

Cladding justice blocked, says Gove

Harry Yorke, Martin Lees and Hugh O'Donnell

Plans to penalise overseas cladding and insulation firms that potentially led about the safety of their products that Grenfell fire victims were awarded by senior Treasury officials, Michael Gove has said.

Speaking at the first since the inquiry's findings were published, the former Tory housing secretary said his efforts to gather those companies found to have manufactured leading were limited. Writing for The Sunday Times, he

said that he had pushed for new restrictions on importing their products into the UK, but this was rejected by the commercial partners of Treasury Ministers' Brexit" - a reference to senior civil servants in the exchange.

Gove, who was MP for the Surrey Heath from 2005 to 2024 and oversaw much of the last government's response to Grenfell, also took aim at the French and Irish governments over their reluctance to take action against the companies in their jurisdictions.

Only 10 per cent of blocks with

known or estimated fire risks have been fixed, leaving up to 550,000 people in 200,000 flats still in danger, analysis of government data shows.

Grenfell-type insulation and cladding were fitted on many blocks across Britain, but the companies that make those products have paid almost nothing to make homes safe, leaving many people with flat they cannot sell and taxpayers paying for repairs.

Angela Rayner, the deputy prime minister and Gov's Labour

Continued on page 4

NEWMAN'S VIEW



Parents: Shame on Letby doubters

David Collins and Glen Keogh

The parents of victims who were victims of Lucy Letby, the neonatal nurse and convicted serial killer, told those doubting her guilt: "Shame on you."

The couple, whose babies were born in 2016 when neonatalist FIV anaesthetist, said they were "deeply shocked" by a campaign to overturn her conviction.

Letby was found guilty of the murder of one of their children, known as Baby E, and attempted murder of the other, Baby F, who

has learning difficulties and complex needs. "We are appalled by the lies and misinformation being spread by a small minority of people who seem driven by their own motives," they said. "This whole traumatic experience made us question humanity. Why are people going out of their way to support a serial killer of babies?"

Questions have been raised by medical and statistical experts in recent weeks about some evidence used to support Letby's conviction at her trial. The "ShutOut" inquiry, a public inquiry set up to examine

events at the Countess of Chester Hospital where Letby worked, is due to start this week.

Many of the experts asked whether they have not had access to medical files in the case, or were at the trial to hear all the evidence.

Full story page 6



BYE BYE BORING ADMIN

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September 8, 2024

THE SUNDAY TIMES Home



20 best secret villages

Pages 8-11

Plus The rise of second-hand homeware **6** My Vinted addiction **7** Live at the Waldorf Astoria **13**



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Home

Up in the world



... AND A TRIP UP TO WEST 57TH STREET — THE WORLD'S SKINNIEST TOWER

Rising above Manhattan in the lift of the world's most slender skyscraper, travelling at 500m a minute with the building's architect, is an ideal opportunity to ask about the problems of building a 435m (1,428ft) tall tower in one of the densest cities in the world. Gregg Pasquarelli of SHoP Architects says the benefit they had was learning from the mistakes that afflicted earlier tall towers. The real hard work was the patience and persistence to get through planning and six years of construction.

"The design process is most enjoyable, especially at the start," Pasquarelli says. "I sat in a room with the developer Michael Stern [of JDS Development Group] and we figured out how to make the exotic possible. We're both good at thinking in four dimensions."

We are in 111 West 57th Street, the Steinway Tower, a building on so-called Billionaires' Row that dominates the New York skyline and provides an impressive view over Central Park. It is 125m taller than the Shard in London with one residence a floor, and is built from the strongest concrete.

Residential interiors and amenities are designed by the AD/CO designer William Soffield and include a padel court (the only one in a New York residential building), a 25m swimming pool and all the lounges, bars, outdoor terraces and spas a multimillionaire owner could desire.

The pencil-thin towers on the southern edge of Central Park have changed the New York skyline with homes selling for outrageous sums. A penthouse covering the top four floors of 220 Central Park South (290m) sold in 2019 to the hedge-fund billionaire Ken Griffin for \$238 million, and in 2023 a home at 111 W 57th Street sold for \$82 million.

New York's historic Waldorf Astoria is selling luxe apartments. *Cathy Hawker* takes a tour

In New York, a city brimming with steel and glass towers, the Waldorf Astoria on Park Avenue is a reminder of an earlier age. The art deco-inspired limestone façade and distinctive twin pinnacles, the capacious public spaces, the Peacock Alley lounge bar and the 1893 World's Fair Clock, a gift from Queen Victoria, all have a place in the affections of many Manhattan's residents.

Now, after closing in 2017 for renovations, the owners Strategic Hotels have announced that the hotel will once again open its doors, in December. The original 1,400 hotel rooms have been scaled back to 375, with the additional bonus of 375 residences for sale.

From 1833 until 1957 the Waldorf Astoria was the largest and tallest hotel in the world. It takes up an entire city block and its past is a glamorous-filled celebrity who's who. It was a home to Frank Sinatra, Cole Porter and Marilyn Monroe. Presidents have walked through the doors, Queen Elizabeth II too, and guests at its parties and galas included Mick Jagger, Tina Turner and Monaco royalty. It was the first hotel to

introduce 24-hour room service and the first to have a telephone in every room and electricity on every floor.

The building is protected as a New York landmark with external and internal preservation orders, and the renovation aims to restore it to its original 1930s splendour. The scale and attention to detail is extraordinary. About a thousand workers are on site every day, peeling back layers of the building, replacing every window with a design that preserves the original style, but with 21st-century technology, and adding modern lighting and high-tech systems behind replica decorative plasterwork and mouldings.

On a hard-hat tour the architect Frank Mahan, from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, describes the company's role as "part preservation and part adaptive re-use, a bridge between the past and the future".

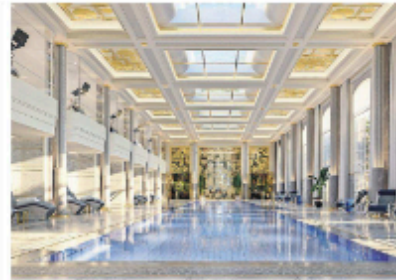
"Everyone you talk to in New York has a Waldorf Astoria story," he says. "They have dined here or got engaged or married here. There's a collective sense of ownership among New Yorkers for the building. It's privately owned but in

some ways it's owned by all the city."

The apartments for sale, Waldorf Astoria Residences New York, are above the hotel on floors 19 to 52: studio to four-bedroom apartments priced from \$1.8 million (about £1.36 million). Interiors by the French designer Jean-Louis Denot and exclusive collaborations offering furniture packages from B&B Italia — the first and only New York residential building to partner with the brand — and sound systems from Bang & Olufsen in show apartments help to sell a seductive Empire City lifestyle.

Owners will have access to the hotel's 100,000 sq ft of facilities, as well as 50,000 sq ft reserved for them. It's a dizzying list of lounges, gyms, a spa and a library, including a saltwater pool overlooking Park Avenue, a plant-filled Winter Garden and 6,000 sq ft of outdoor space on the 26th floor with views to the Chrysler Building.

"Park Avenue has the best shopping and entertainment, the things that make New York New York, and the Waldorf Astoria is an anchor in the neighbourhood," says Hugh Dixon, the head of Knight Frank's US private office and international sales agent for the residences. "Buyers include brand followers who like the investment value, the



From top: inside a Waldorf Astoria apartment; Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller at the hotel in 1957; the residents-only swimming pool; a bathroom. Far right: 111 West 57th Street



longevity, quality and management the brand offers. It's a trophy asset for collectors," he adds.

For trophy collectors or investors looking for rental yields, Dixon recommends two-bedroom apartments, saying they appeal to the widest rental pool. And he adds that many US buyers are still holding New York property, despite lower taxes in states like Florida, while international buyers will

always be drawn to the city for its lifestyle and capital growth. "At Waldorf Astoria we are preserving history for a new era, creating a hotel and residences for modern times," Andre Zottoli, the chief executive of Strategic Hotels, says. "Luxury means impeccable design, wonderful views and, most importantly, today it means personalised service, exclusivity and privacy. That's what Waldorf Astoria New York is offering."

“The hotel hosted Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe and royalty”

New York's historic Waldorf Astoria is selling luxe apartments. *Cathy Hawker* takes a tour

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