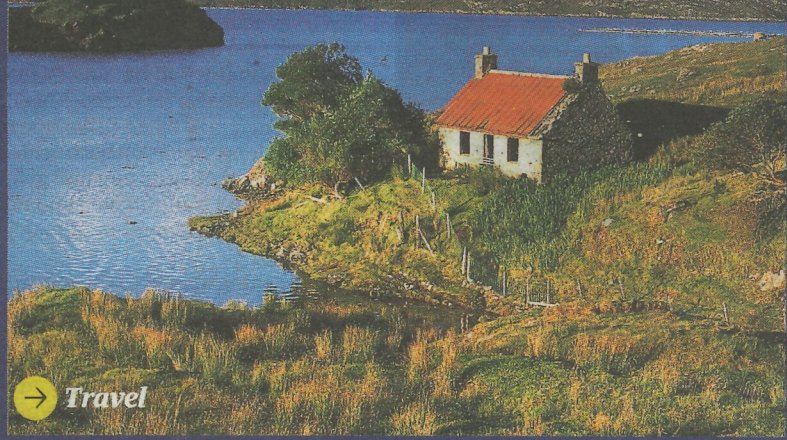
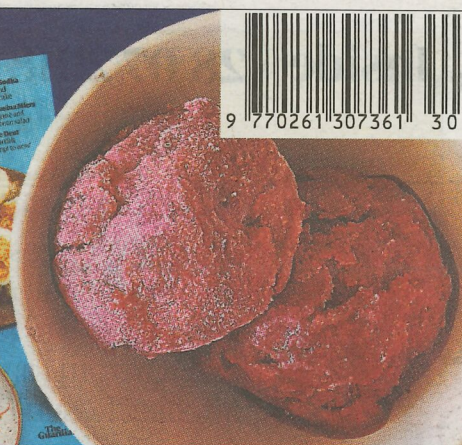


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This is the face of climate change, say scientists

Damian Carrington
Exclusive

The extreme heatwaves and wildfires wreaking havoc around the globe are "the face of climate change", one of the world's leading climate scientists has declared, with the impacts of global warming now "playing out in real time".

Climate change has long been predicted to ramp up extreme weather and scientists are now confident these predictions are coming true.

The effect of global warming in creating the scorching temperatures that have baked Britain and northern Europe for weeks has also been revealed. The hot spell was made more than twice as likely by climate change, a new analysis found, demonstrating an "unambiguous" link.

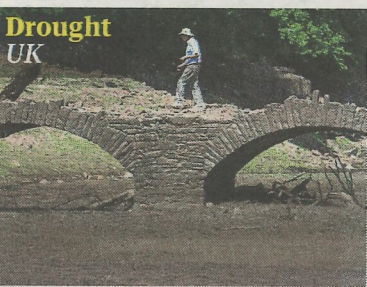
Extreme weather has struck across Europe, from the Arctic Circle to Greece, and further afield, from North America to Japan. "This is the face of climate change," said Prof Michael Mann, at Penn State University, one of the world's most eminent climate scientists. "We literally would not have seen these extremes in the absence of climate change."

He told the Guardian: "The impacts

Fire
Greece



Drought
UK



Floods
Japan



of climate change are no longer subtle. We are seeing them play out in real time and what is happening this summer is a perfect example of that.

"We are seeing our predictions come true. As a scientist that is reassuring, but as a citizen of planet Earth, it is very distressing to see that as it means we have not taken the necessary action."

In Britain, the heatwave is set to break over the weekend as thunderstorms roll in. The first storms caused rail disruption yesterday, after lightning strikes on signal boxes stopped all services running through Leeds and York. The Met Office said it is likely to become very warm again in August, especially across the south.

The rapid scientific assessment of the northern European heatwave was done by Friederike Otto, at the University of Oxford, and colleagues at the World Weather Attribution (WWA) consortium. "What was once regarded as unusually warm weather will become commonplace, and in some cases it already has," she said. "The logic that climate change will do this is inescapable. The world is becoming warmer, and so heatwaves like this are becoming more common."

Events worse than the current heatwave are likely

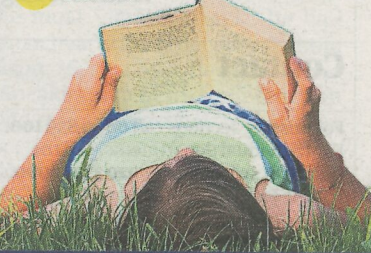
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Weekend



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Data abuses and fake news a risk to democracy, MPs warn

Jim Waterson

Democracy is at risk unless the government and regulators take urgent action to combat the growing problem of data manipulation, disinformation and so-called fake news, a parliamentary committee is expected to say.

In damning conclusions to the report, leaked by the former Vote Leave campaign strategist Dominic

Cummings before its official publication tomorrow, the digital, culture, media and sport (DCMS) committee adds to growing calls for tougher government regulation of social media companies, which it accuses of profiting from misleading material, and raises concerns about Russian involvement in British politics.

The report says the "relentless targeting of hyper-partisan views, which play to the fears and prejudices of people, in order to influence their

voting plans and their behaviour" posed a greater threat to democracy than more familiar forms of so-called fake news, raising particular concerns about the way online data could be manipulated to affect elections.

The DCMS committee has spent 18 months conducting a series of high-profile and often cantankerous evidence sessions in which the focus has shifted from disinformation to the influence of social networks, in particular Facebook, and

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