



Beans means... BRITISH!

BREAKFAST news: scientists and farmers have sealed the tins on the first-ever crop of baked beans grown in Britain!

A team at the University of Warwick spent 12 years creating a special type of haricot bean that's able to grow in the UK climate. They were harvested at a farm in Lincolnshire in September and have been packaged, ready to eat.

Around two million tins of baked beans are eaten every day in the UK but, until now, the beans have all been grown and transported here from countries like the US, Canada, Ethiopia and China. It's hoped we can now cut our need to ship them from abroad, saving money and reducing our climate impact.

Andrew Ward, whose farm in Leadenham grew the beans, said: "To be able to produce something that we consume in such great quantities in this country, it's just unbelievable. To see them go through the line and into a tin, soon to be on a piece of toast, is unreal."

This first successful crop is just a test run, so the tins won't actually be sold in supermarkets just yet – in fact, most of the beans will be used as seeds to grow more crops next year.



Professor Eric Holub from the University of Warwick, who created the beans

Israel fights Hamas in all areas of Gaza



Gaza residents flee the city of Khan Younis

ISRAEL'S army has warned people living in Gaza to leave their homes as fighting spreads to all areas.

It's been one week since fighting restarted between Israel and Hamas, the group that controls the territory of Gaza, following a seven-day ceasefire (pause) in the fighting. During that break in the war, Hamas agreed to release 110 hostages from Gaza, while 240 Palestinians were released from prisons in Israel.

It was hoped the ceasefire might last longer, but both sides blamed each other for the fact that it didn't.

During the ceasefire, Hamas, which is classed as a terrorist group by the UK, said it carried out a shooting at a bus stop in the city of Jerusalem. Three Israelis were killed – a pregnant teacher, a school principal and a judge. The gunmen were shot moments later.

Israel says it has used more than 10,000 bombs and missiles on targets in Gaza since Hamas fighters killed 1,200 people in Israel on 7 October. Gaza's health ministry says more than 15,500 people have been killed in Gaza since then.

As *First News* went to press, a lot of Israel's missiles were being aimed at the city of Khan Younis, in the south of Gaza, where it was thought top Hamas leaders were hiding.

See our app for regular news updates on the conflict.



Two of the world's richest people – Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk. Both made their own fortunes

Billionaires get rich from mum and dad

A BANK for the super-rich says new billionaires have bagged most of their riches from their relatives, rather than their own hard work.

Swiss bank UBS says the money is mostly inherited (passed down) after rich family members die. Of the 137 people who became billionaires between May 2022 and April 2023, 53 inherited a combined total of £119 billion, which is more than the £111 billion that the

other 84 made through their own work.

UBS has done an annual report for nine years and says this is the first time that billionaires got more money through inheritance than their own projects.

The bank says its records show that, in April, there were 2,544 billionaires around the world, worth £9.5 trillion between them – four times more than the UK's entire economy.

Almost 139,000 homeless kids in England

GOVERNMENT figures show that 138,930 children in England are set to spend their Christmas in places like hostels and B&Bs because they don't have a proper home.

That's nearly 7,500 more children than in March this year, when the figure was last counted, and is a record high.

Homelessness charity Shelter says that many of the thousands of families living in temporary accommodation are crammed into one room, sharing beds and living with hazards like mouldy walls and faulty electrics.

Shelter has launched an urgent appeal for people to support its work in helping these families over Christmas. Its boss, Polly Neate, said the high price of homes and rent

means that homeless families face "months or even years in temporary accommodation, where their lives are stuffed into cardboard boxes."

One family living like this is Melanie, aged 52, who works full-time for the NHS. She's living with her 15-year-old twin son and daughter, and 17 year-old daughter, in a Travelodge hotel room with no cooking facilities.

Melanie said: "The hardest part of being homeless is the uncertainty. We're booked into the Travelodge one week at a time... this means we can't plan anything more than a week ahead. We have no idea where we'll be spending Christmas."

To learn about Shelter's work, visit www.shelter.org.uk.



A MAN from Florida is trying to set an unbreakable record of owning one million copies of the 1997 movie *Titanic* on video cassette.

JD, also known as TitanicFan97 on YouTube, already owns 2,477, with his social media followers sending him copies from all over the world.

He watches it every day and says: "I just love *Titanic* on VHS... I go to sleep thinking about *Titanic*, and I wake up thinking about *Titanic*." He'll need a room as big as the famous ship to store all those tapes!