

Your Full What's On Guide of local events: See Inside Today

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Britons open wallets to secure White Cliffs of Dover for nation: See Inside



Cheers to a great fundraising event: SEE Page 8

Bolton is new UKIP leader

London.—Britain's anti-European Union UKIP party elected former army officer Henry Bolton its new leader yesterday, tasked with the job of trying to stop the party that had helped bring about Brexit becoming an irrelevance.

Bolton, an infantry officer who also served in the police, was elected the UK Independence Party's fourth leader in a year with 3,874 votes, 30 percent of the total, saying his priority was to ensure that prime minister Theresa May's government delivered the exit from the EU.

"Brexit is our core task," he told party supporters at its conference in southwest England.

"Everything prepared" for Catalan vote - but Madrid says it won't happen

Catalonia's leader made clear his government was determined to go ahead with a Sunday vote on independence that Madrid calls illegal and which has thrust Spain into its most dramatic political crisis for decades.

The central government, which has sent thousands of police reinforcements to the region to prevent people from voting, meanwhile insisted yesterday the referendum would not happen.

"Everything is prepared at the more than 2,000 voting points so they have ballot boxes and voting slips, and have everything people need to express

their opinion," Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont told Reuters in an interview yesterday. At a news conference yesterday, regional officials displayed one of the white plastic ballot boxes, bearing the crest of the regional government. Puigdemont has said more than 6,000 of them are hidden in a secret place. Courts have ordered police to cordon off schools scheduled to be used as ballot stations. In a bid to keep them open, parents have called for a mass school sleepover this weekend, with tents and sleeping bags, free paella and cinema. Organisers said 60,000 had already registered to participate.