

**41,600**people killed in  
Gaza, and another  
1,100 people in  
Israel**85%**of Gaza's school  
buildings  
damaged**4**days of ceasefire  
(no fighting)  
in the past 12  
months**97**people still  
held hostage  
(prisoner) in Gaza  
by Hamas

# ONE YEAR OF FIGHTING

7 OCTOBER 2023 – 7 OCTOBER 2024

THIS week marks one year since fighting broke out between Israel and Hamas, the terrorist group that controls Gaza.

The war has taken a terrible toll on innocent people living either side of the border.

In Gaza, local health authorities say that over 41,000 people have died, and a lack of access to things like food and medicine has created a major health crisis. In Israel, over 1,100 people have died, and nearly 100 people are being held hostage (prisoner) by Hamas.

The war has also created division between

people in other countries, with widespread protests in major cities worldwide.

Tensions are rising further still, with more fighting between Israel and Lebanon. In the past week, Israeli strikes have killed several leaders of Hezbollah – a group that supports Hamas and runs Lebanon's biggest army.

When *First News* went to print, Israeli troops had entered Lebanon to fight on the ground. For the latest, check the *First News* app.

• You can read more about the conflict by going to [first.news/IsraelGaza](https://first.news/IsraelGaza).



Our front page last October, as fighting began



*"We need to see an immediate ceasefire. It shames us all that the suffering in Gaza continues to grow. The answer is diplomacy [calm discussions], the release of all the hostages and the unfettered [unrestricted] flow of aid to those in need. That is the only way to break this devastating cycle of violence".*

– UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks to world leaders last week

## Going up... and up... and up!

NEW research has found that the world's tallest mountain is getting even taller!

Mount Everest is growing by 2mm every year – and it could be 50 metres higher than it was 89,000 years ago, say scientists at University College London. It's being slowly lifted due to pressure under the Earth's crust, caused by the erosion (wearing away) of a nearby river gorge.

Sure, 2mm per year (or 1cm every five years) doesn't sound much. But as a climber, if you've already scaled the mountain's current height of 8,849 metres, we imagine every little counts!



Will Everest never rest?

## The cooking oil that's kinder to the planet



A camellia shrub

**DID YOU KNOW?**

A THIRD of all the world's farmland is used to grow vegetable oils.

YOU'LL have heard of sunflower oil and olive oil... but how about camellia oil?

It's also known as tea seed oil. It's hardly used in cooking outside of China, but researchers say that if we start using it more, it may benefit us and the planet.

A team at Westlake University in China found that camellia shrubs can produce 2.8 tonnes of oil per hectare, which is more oil than rapeseed, olive, sunflower

and soya plants produce. This means that they'd need less land.

If camellia crops were planted on just 11% of the spots where those other crops are grown, they'd also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 14%, water use by 5% and pesticide use by 9%.

Camellia oil is high in oleic acid too, which reduces the risk of heart disease – but researchers say that it's expensive.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

WE'RE really interested to hear what you think of our front page this week.



Nicky Cox MBE

The government does have a legal duty to reach net zero emissions by 2050, so every organisation needs to do its bit. But criticising the Red Arrows might make you seem unpatriotic or just a bit of a fun sponge, as people get a lot of enjoyment out of their amazing displays – here and abroad.

A lot of people are flying less because they know it's bad for the planet, but should that apply to the Red Arrows and their brave pilots too?

Make your voice heard in our poll – and lots of others – by going to [first.news/polls](https://first.news/polls).



Coal is a fossil fuel. Burning it releases carbon dioxide and causes global warming

**GOOD WEEK**

## The climate

THE last coal power station in the UK has closed. We've been burning coal to generate electricity since 1882, but that's now over after the station in Ratcliffe-on-Soar, in Nottinghamshire, shut on 30 September. The UK now generates over half of its power from climate-friendly sources. To learn more about these, visit [first.news/greenenergy](https://first.news/greenenergy).

## Coca-Cola

A NEW flavour of Coca-Cola has been cancelled, just seven short months after it launched. Coca-Cola Spiced, which tastes of raspberry, went on sale in the USA and Canada in February, but it will be replaced by a new flavour next year. The company said: "We're always looking at what our consumers like and adjusting our range of products."

**BAD WEEK**



The drink fell flat

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEEKLY QUIZ!

Test yourself on this week's news with our new quiz, included with every home and school subscription. Play with your family, friends or by yourself. Read this week's issue to get all the answers right!

Ask a grown-up/bill-payer for your **WEB ID** to use the app.

