

Dearly departed

Stars and legends we have lost in 2020

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The past year is, by no means, one which makes for easy reflection.

Among the many lost are stars of stage, screen, and pitch. Here we look back on some of the notable names to have left us in 2020.

January

The first month of the year came with the sudden death of five-time NBA champion and two-time Olympic gold medalist Kobe Bryant, who died aged 41 along with his 13-year-old daughter following a helicopter crash in California.

Comedy genius and actor Terry Jones passed away at the age of 77, with Monty Python co-star Terry Gilliam paying tribute to Jones as a "brilliant, constantly questioning, iconoclastic, righteously argumentative and angry but outrageously funny and generous and kind human being."

Scotland said goodbye to a number of sporting stars, with the death of Ayr United and Clyde striker Danny Masterton, Edinburgh boxing champion Jackie Brown and Hall of Fame footballer Bobby Brown - who died aged 96 after a distinguished



Monty Python star Terry Jones passed away at the age of 77

career as both a player and manager.

Just a Minute host and actor Nicholas Parsons also passed away aged 96 at the end of January.

February

The music world was shaken by the death of DJ and Primal Scream producer Andrew Weatherall, who passed suddenly at the age of 56. The producer of legendary album *Screamadelica* will be remembered fondly as a lively DJ and "cosmic traveller" on the electronic scene.

Caroline Flack's death by suicide shocked the nation as she died at the age of 40. The *Love Island* and *ITV* presenter was remembered by *Love Island*'s Iain Stirling, who paid tribute to her "passion, warmth and infectious enthusiasm". Similarly, the death of rapper Pop Smoke at just 20-years-old shocked fans, friends and family, with a statement from his record label describing his death as an "unexpected and tragic loss".

American actor Kirk Douglas died aged 103, leaving behind an illustrious legacy as one of the last remaining stars of Hollywood's golden age.

March

The husky-voiced singer Kenny Rogers, known for hits such as *Coward Of The County* and *The Gambler*, died at home, aged 81, from natural causes. Dolly Parton reacted to the news, tweeting: "I loved Kenny with all my heart. And my heart's broken. A big old chunk of it has gone with him today."

Hollywood star Max von Sydow was hailed for his "tremendous presence and power" following his death aged 90. He was best known for roles in *Game of Thrones*, *The Exorcist* and *Star Wars*. Chef and res-



Kenny Rogers, known for hits such as *Coward Of The County*

taurateur Michel Roux was remembered as a "humble genius" after his death at the age of 78.

Dundee footballer Dave Soutar also died in March at the age of 79 and is remembered as a versatile and highly regarded footballer who played for a wealth of Scottish clubs in the 1960s.

April

Honor Blackman, known for her role as Bond girl Pussy Galore in *Goldfinger*, died aged 94 at the start of April, with tributes paid to the *Avengers* star for her successful acting career spanning eight decades. Blackman's death is followed by that of the "songwriter's songwriter" and US soul extraordinaire Bill Withers. The man behind hits like *Lean on Me*, *Ain't No Sunshine* died at the age of 81 from heart complications.

Bollywood actor and *Life of Pi* star Irrfan Khan died at the end of the month following a short illness.

Comic Eddie Large died at the age of 78 after contracting Covid-19 while in hospital receiving treatment for heart failure. Actor and comedian Tim Brooke-Taylor meanwhile died at the age of 79.

Glasgow-born journalist, Lynn Faulds Wood, died aged 72 in the same month after a stroke. Her career saw her



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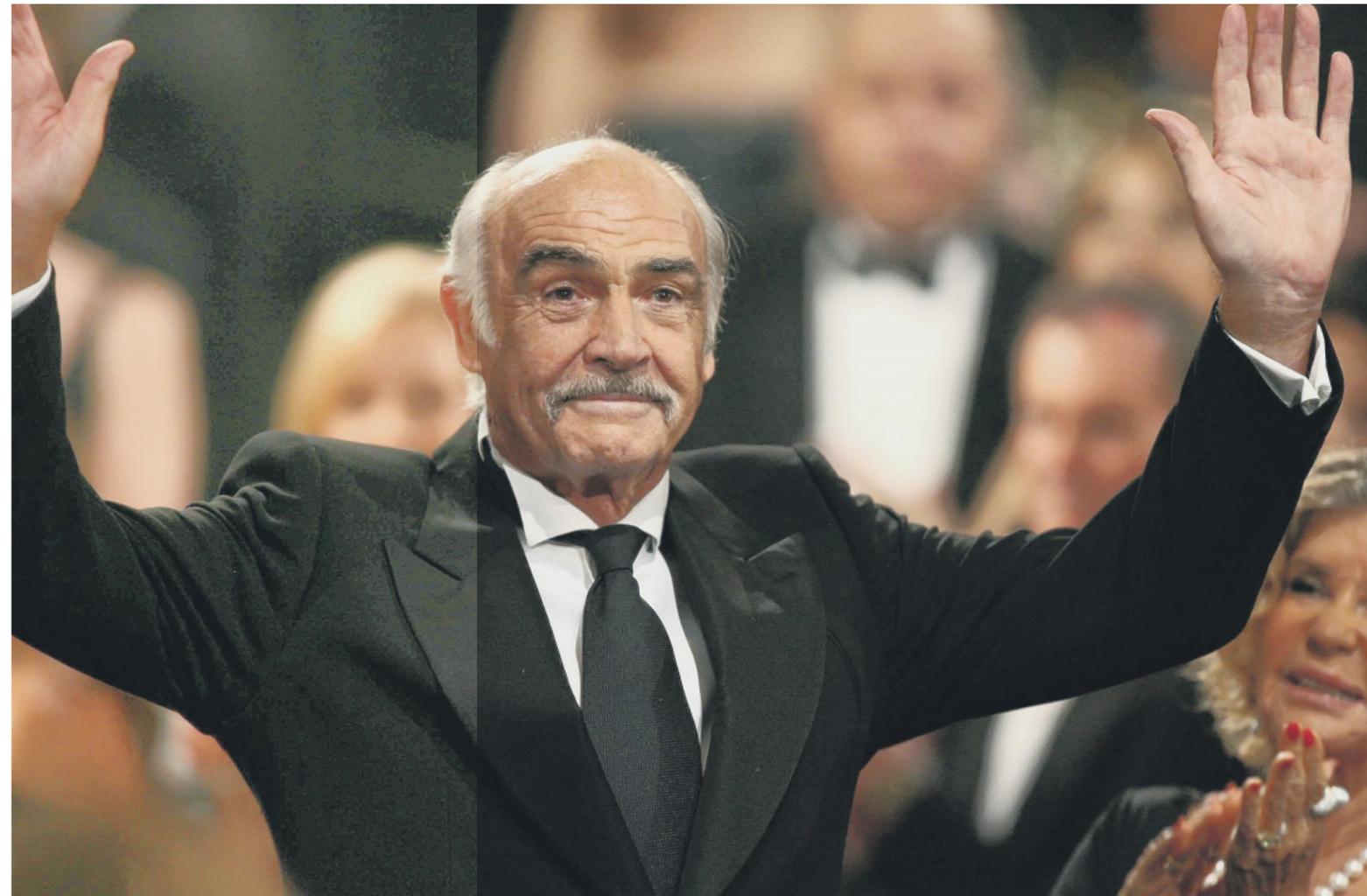
dazzle on British breakfast television and alongside co-presenter John Stapleton on the BBC's *Watchdog* from 1985 to 1993.

Several British and Scottish sports heroes passed away throughout the month, with Scottish international rugby player, coach and manager Dougie Moran dying aged 73, Leeds defender Norman Hunter passing away at 76 after contracting coronavirus and Formula One legend Sir Stirling Moss dying at the age of 90.

May

Derek Ogg QC, a Scottish lawyer who campaigned to retroactively and automatically pardon gay and bisexual men historically convicted for no longer illegal sexual offences, died on May 1 aged 65. Ogg was a landmark campaigner for LGBT+ rights in Scotland, having co-founded the International Gay Rights Congress in Edinburgh in 1974 as well as the Scottish Aids Monitor Group. Nicola Sturgeon said Mr Ogg was a "brilliant advocate and a truly lovely man".

A pioneer of rock'n'roll, Little Richard passed away aged 87 on May 9. Rolling Stones singer Sir Mick Jagger said he had "contributed so much to popular music", adding that he would "watch his moves" to learn from



Sir Sean Connery, the first and arguably greatest James Bond and one of the most famous Scots of all time, died on October 31 at the age of 90

them while they toured together.

Michael Angelis, best known as the long-term narrator of *Thomas The Tank Engine* series *Thomas And Friends*, died suddenly at home in May. Matt Lucas paid tribute to Angelis as "one of the greatest TV actors I've ever seen".

Motherwell-born footballer John Ogilvie passed away at the age of 91 after contracting Covid-19. The former Hibs and Leicester City player was remembered by Leicester City Football Club, who he appeared 85 times for as a fullback between 1955 and 1960, as a "key figure at Filbert Street during that time".

June

Dame Vera Lynn died aged 103 just weeks after

thousands across the United Kingdom performed her 1939 *We'll Meet Again* to celebrate VE Day. The Queen sent a private message of condolence following her death.

Naya Rivera died of accidental drowning at Lake Piru in Southern California on July 8. The former *Glee* star's husband Ryan Dorsey paid tribute in an Instagram post writing: "This is so unfair...there's not enough words to express the hole left in everyone's hearts. I can't believe this is life now. I don't know if I'll ever believe it."

Snooker player Willie Thorne left us at the age of 66.

The Lord of the Rings actor Sir Ian Holm passed away on June 19, aged 88. Frozen star Josh Gad paid tribute to Sir Ian Holm as "the beat-

ing heart" of the *Lord Of The Rings* trilogy following his death.

July

Scottish comedian and actor Johnny Beattie passed away aged 93, known for his career spanning theatre, tv and comedy.

A stalwart in England's 1966 World Cup winning side, Jack Charlton passed away after living with lymphoma and dementia. Charlton was a one-club-man with Leeds United during one of the most successful periods in the club's history.

The world suffers the loss of more music legends in 2020 as legendary film score composer Ennio Morricone dies in July aged 91. Morricone is best known for his scores on *A Fistful of Dollars* and *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. Fleetwood Mac's Peter Green also passed away at the age of 73,



Forces sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn died on June 18

with the English blues-rock legend being mourned as one of the most talented guitarists of the 1960s.

Actress Dame Olivia de Havilland left us at the age of 104.

Filmmaker Sir Alan Parker died at the age of 76.

August

News of the Black Panther actor Chadwick Boseman's private cancer battle and death aged 42 shocked the world. The performer is widely expected to be nominated for a posthumous Oscar for his role in Netflix original *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

The former SDLP leader and Nobel laureate John Hume died in early August aged 83. A message from the Dalai Lama was read out at his funeral - it read: "It was his leadership and his faith in the power of negotiations that enabled the 1998 Good

Dame Diana had a career on the small screen and the stage stretching back decades.

October

Legendary guitarist Eddie Van Halen passed away aged 65 on October 6 following a battle with throat cancer. Son Wolf Van Halen shared the news, writing: "He was the best father I could ever ask for. Every moment I've shared with him on and off stage was a gift."

Comic and actor Bobby Ball died at the age of 76 this month, and sports presenter Frank Bough died at 87.

Bond girl and Carry On star Margaret Nolan passed away on October 5. Director Edgar Wright was among those who paid tribute, writing: "She was so funny, sharp and, as you might imagine, full of the most amazing stories. I'm so glad I got to know her. My heart goes out to her family and all that loved her. She will be much missed."

One of the most famous Scots of all time best known for his turn as Ian Fleming's James Bond, Sir Sean Connery passed away on October 31 aged 90. Knighted in 2000, Sir Sean Connery won a best supporting actor Oscar for his role in 1988 film *The Untouchables*.

November

The Darth Vader actor David Prowse died on November 28, aged 85, following a short illness. The actor also appeared in *Doctor Who* and *The Two Ronnies*.

Veteran comedian John Sessions died aged 67 on November 2. The Largs-born performer was known for his voice work in the original incarnation of *Spitting Image*, his cult comedy hit tv show *Stella Street* and appearances on *Have I Got News For You*.

Entertainer Des O'Connor passed away this month at the age of 88, and actor Geoffrey Palmer died at 93.

Hamish MacInnes, the Scottish climber widely regarded as the country's "mountain king", passed away at the age of 90 at his home in Glen Coe. Nicknamed the Fox of Glencoe for his skill and expertise in climbing, MacInnes also provided his insights on sets for acclaimed films like *Clint Eastwood's The Eiger Sanction* and *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

All at *The Scotsman* were



devastated to learn of the death of former executive editor Bill Jamieson aged 75. The journalist known for his skilled writing on Scottish politics and economics was remembered by Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard as a "titan of Scottish journalism".

One of the world's greatest ever footballers, Diego Maradona, died at the age of 60 in Argentina sparking an outpouring of tributes around the world.

December

EastEnders and Carry On actress Dame Barbara Windsor died aged 83 following a battle with dementia. In a touching tribute Windsor's husband Scott Mitchell said: "It was not the ending that Barbara or anyone else living with this very cruel disease deserve. I will always be immensely proud of Barbara's courage, dignity and generosity dealing with her own illness and still trying to help others by raising awareness for as long as she could."

Master of the British spy novel, John le Carre, died at the age of 89 following a battle with pneumonia, with tributes for the *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* writer pouring in from across the globe.

Le Carre was awarded the Olof Palme Prize earlier this year in recognition of his extensive, celebrated works engaging with "the freedom of the individual and the fundamental issues of mankind".

Edinburgh street photographer Dr Robert Blomfield passed away at 82-years-old. The acclaimed photographer was known for his warm, tender snapshots of Edinburgh locals and street scenes in the 1950s - with his work exhibited for the first time in 2018 at the City Art Centre in the Capital.



One of the greatest footballers, Diego Maradona, died aged 60