Assaults on police

Sir, On what should have been one of the quietest of the year, Christmas Day, a total of 16 police officers were assaulted across Sussex. That number is expected to rise, as the slightest incident is just trying to do their best to serve the public on Christmas Day. Those figures are completely unacceptable. Legislation has been introduced to enable courts to hand out stiffer sentences to those individuals guilty of behaving in this way. However, there is precious little evidence that the courts have used these additional powers. There can be no justification whatsoever for assaulting an emergency service worker and we need to ensure that those responsible can expect to be severely punished. It seems to me that the judiciary is failing to do its fair and proper thing. We should all ask our MPs to put pressure on the home secretary and the criminal justice committee for the House of Commons to see that the courts hand out the sentences available to them for any assault carried out upon an emergency service worker.

Kevin Moore
Retired detective chief superintendent, Seaford, E Sussex

It’s all me, me, me

Sir, Your report that meditation can give a full picture of the risks and benefits of the vaccine (Dec 28) is welcome, but why is the military not supporting GPs and primary care at great risk, which in turn will affect the hospital sector.

Dr Lucy Andrews
London SW15

A Christmas classic

Sir, My father, every Advent for 52 years, read Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. Together and to a changing assemblage of children, grandchildren, sleeping dogs and servants, he read from Tiny Tim’s “God bless us, everyone”. Two years ago, I lost my father passed away. I can still hear his voice: “God bless us, everyone.”

Sophieke Piebenga
Seaview, Isle of Wight

Friends of nature

Sir, In celebrating the recovery of wildlife at National Trust properties, you are dwelling on the battle against nature as the enemies of nature (“With people locked away animals come out to play” Letters, Dec 30). The campaign mentioned will have benefited from good active land management on Trust properties, including the 2,668 hectares of priority habitat created by the trust in the past year, as well as large areas on the farms and fields that surround them. Without these working with farmers, things could look much worse.

James Swan
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust

Backaving away

Sir, I certainly remember the “I’m backing Britain” campaign of the 1960s. As then, it would be nice to remember the song to accompany it sung by Bruce Forth; why it is now circulating in my head endlessly.

Antony Hurden
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Our rights abroad

Sir, Professor Piotrowski (Letters, Dec 29) may be correct in law that, owing to her dual nationality, Iran has the right to treat Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe purely as its own citizen in Iran, as described by her. But she is in the UK. Has the professor forgotten that law is made by representatives of its citizens? It would be interesting to hear what she is in the UK.

James Swyer
Cirencester, Glos