

The World's Biggest Question

Politicians dominated the headlines in January 2006. Leader of the Lib Dems, Charles , admitted to a problem with after criticisms of his leadership. MP George was evicted from the Celebrity Big Brother house to a chorus of boos. Houghton was the eventual winner, even though she wasn't a celebrity. Fears of bird grew after the first recorded fatalities outside Asia were reported in Turkey. A new record for fastest-selling debut album was set by Yorkshire band Monkeys. After intense speculation, the FA announced that the England manager - Eriksson would step down after the World Cup.

Demonstrations against the depiction of the prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper continued throughout February. At the Brit Awards 2006 Chiefs win a number of awards including Best British group. The Winter Olympics in were dominated by Germany who won 11 gold medals. Continuing a bad start to the year, the FA announced that would not be ready for the 2006 FA Cup Final, which would instead be played at . London Mayor Livingstone was suspended from office for 4 weeks but was allowed to continue as mayor, pending an appeal.

After a memorable contest, Sir Menzies won the leadership of the Lib Dems in March, easily defeating the other two remaining candidates. MP Tessa split from her husband David Mills after allegations of financial irregularity. The Parliamentary Standards committee cleared her of any wrongdoing. In America, Michael Jackson was ordered by a court to close his Ranch after failing to pay staff. Former President of Yugoslavia, Slobodan died in his cell at the Hague, ending his trial for war crimes. The 2006 Oscar for Best picture was won by ahead of hotly-tipped film Brokeback . Australia won 84 gold medals at the Games in Melbourne, ahead of England with 36. Riots hit the French capital after the government introduced controversial new labour laws.

In April, the High Court ruled that Da Vinci Code author Dan had not breached the copyright of another, earlier book. Barkley became the first artist to get to number one on download sales alone with his single . With weeks still left to play, secured the premiership title comfortably. Steve McClaren was announced as the new England manager in May. Soon after, Eriksson announced his World Cup squad including the injured Wayne . beat West Ham on penalties to secure the FA Cup. Arsenal lost to in the Champions League Final in Paris. BBC's The Apprentice was won by Dewberry, beating Ruth . The Eurovision song contest was won by with 'Hard Rock Hallelujah'.

The World Cup started well for England in June, defeating Paraguay, then Trinidad and Tobago. In the final group game against Sweden striker Michael was taken off with an injury. England were finally knocked out by on penalties. David Beckham subsequently resigned as England captain. Definitely Maybe by was voted best album of all time by music fans.

The UK suffered from a heatwave in July. Little Britain comedian David swam the English channel, achieving a good time. At Wimbledon, Amelie won the ladies' final and Roger won his fourth men's title. beat France in the World Cup Final and French Captain Zinedine was sent off for a headbutt. The last edition of the BBC's music show, Top of The was broadcast.

In August, British Formula One driver Jensen won his first Grand Prix in Hungary. There was chaos in UK airports as the security threat level was raised to and flights were cancelled. Big Brother 7 was won by Bennett.

Crocodile hunter Steve was killed in a freak accident when he was stung by a in Australia. There were protests from Muslims around the world after a speech given by Pope XVI. The Vatican apologised for the offence the speech caused. Top Gear presenter Richard was seriously injured attempting a land-speed record.

Former Busted singer Willis won I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here in December beating Myleene and Jason .